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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Arab League Meeting on Deportees

Qaddumi Talks With Musa

NC1101154393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and the Palestine delegation to the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, met today with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Following the meeting, Qaddumi said the Palestinian view is part of the coordination and cooperation with Egypt in the latter's capacity as the major Arab country and in Musa's capacity as the chairman of the Arab League's extraordinary session.

Qaddumi said that the issue of the Palestinian deportees and means and measures to enable them to return to their homes were discussed. He added that all Arab countries are discussing the deportees, who are living in very harsh conditions, noting: We are opposed to and are resisting Israel's policy of emptying the territories of its population.

Qaddumi discussed a possible U.S. veto against the use of Article 7 of the UN Charter against Israel, saying: We, as Palestinians and Arabs, are asking why international legitimacy is not applied to the Palestinian issue but is applied somewhere else. Is there discrimination? Are there double standards?

Qaddumi added: We do not want to anticipate events. The U.S. stand remains as it was inside the Security Council, when it forcefully condemned the Israeli measures. We must go by this. What concerns us is the return of the deportees to their lands.

The PLO official discussed the Palestinians' participation in the next round of the peace negotiations, saying that it depends on the return of the deportees; it would be impossible for the Palestinian delegation to take part in the negotiations as long as the deportees have not returned to their homes. He added that all possible measures will be discussed by the Arab group.

Syria's al-Shar' Arrives

NC1101132993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Abu Dhabi to attend the Arab foreign ministers' conference to be held later today at Arab League Headquarters to discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

Al-Shar' was received by Ambassador Sami Thabit, chief of protocol at the Arab League, and Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general.

Officials Comment on Meetings

NC1201161493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has expressed his full satisfaction at the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers meetings, which concluded here today.

This comment came in a statement al-Shar' made today following the conclusion of the two-day meetings of the Arab League Ministerial Council, held in the League's headquarters to discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, reiterated that the UN Security Council must compel Israel to implement Resolution 799, which provides for the deportees return. He said Israel's refusal to implement this resolution constitutes an assault on the UN Security Council itself.

The Kuwaiti minister added that the Arab foreign ministers did not adopt a resolution during their meetings on whether they will continue the peace negotiations or not. He explained that the issue concerns the Arab cordon states.

Commenting on the Iraqi infiltration into Kuwaiti territory, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said Iraq has violated the UN Security Council resolutions it had agreed to comply with. He added that Iraq is defying the Security Council with its "childish acts" and that it will harm its own people before anyone else.

Touching on the issue of the Kuwaiti POW's, Shaykh Sabah said the Arab League envoy recently visited Iraq on the issue and that he will report to the secretary general on the matter.

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister also said that he delivered a message to President Mubarak from the Kuwaiti amir, adding that he briefed the president on the Iraqi infiltration into Kuwaiti territory and their entry into UN, not Kuwaiti-controlled areas.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Palestinian delegation that attended the meeting, said that in the event that the UN Security Council fails to force Israel to take back the Palestinian deportees, the PLO will not be able to continue participating in the peace negotiations, both the bilateral and the multilateral. He pointed out that Israel alone will be to blame for the cessation of the talks.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that Arab sides will hold consultations at a later date on the continuation or non-continuation of the peace negotiations. This, he said, will be done in light of the outcome of the UN Security Council's meetings. He added that the issue of the deportees will also be followed up by the Arab League secretary general and discussed with the UN secretary general.

Speaking to news reporters at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo today, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Arab foreign ministers call on the UN Security Council to take measures in accordance with Article 7 of the UN charter, if Israel fails to comply with the [UN Security Council resolution calling for] return of the deportees. He added that the UN Security Council should set a deadline for Israel to implement its resolution. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that Israel's refusal to take back the Palestinian deportees will have grave consequences for regional peace as well as for the continuation of the peace talks.

Resolution Condemns Israel

NC1201181693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Arab League Ministerial Council, at the end of an extraordinary session it held to discuss the issue of Palestinian deportees, today issued a resolution strongly condemning Israel for committing the crime of deporting over 400 Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab territories, in violation of the norms of international law, particularly the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The resolution warns of the grave consequences of this violation and of the policy of mass deportations for regional security and stability and the current peace process. The resolution condemns Israel for violating the sovereignty of the Republic of Lebanon by deporting the Palestinian citizens to occupied Lebanese land. The resolution supports the resolutions made by the Lebanese Government in this regard.

The resolution calls on the UN Security Council to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure Israel's prompt compliance with Resolution 799, including the implementation of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

The resolution calls on the United Nations to find an appropriate mechanism to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly through the assignment of an international force to provide protection to the citizens living in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

It also calls on international humanitarian organizations to intensify their efforts to provide relief to the Palestinian deportees via the occupied Palestinian territories ['ibra al-aradi al-filastiniyah al-muhtallah].

The resolution calls on the Arab League's secretary general to follow up the implementation of this resolution and report back to the Arab League Ministerial Council.

It declares the Arab League Ministerial Council's extraordinary session open-ended and authorized the leadership [al-riyasah] and the secretary general to call the council [for a meeting] as events warrant.

Arab League Chief on Resolution

NC1201155293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held a news conference today in which he read the resolution passed by the Arab League Ministerial Council. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the UN Security Council should use the same standards in dealing with all international problems.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he sent the text of the resolution to the UN secretary general, the president of the UN Security Council, and the secretary generals of the OAU and the Islamic Conference Organization.

The Arab League secretary general said that the Arab countries will hold consultations with the concerned countries to press for the implementation of the league's resolution.

He added that the Arab foreign ministers held a special meeting to discuss the Arab position on the treaty banning chemical weapons. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he will send a message to the UN secretary general, the president of the UN Security Council, and the French foreign minister in which he points out that most Arab countries will not sign the treaty and that these countries call on Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Musa 'Entrusted' With Deportee Issue

NC1201163393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1509 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Palestine's Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal today said that the Arab foreign ministers have entrusted Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to follow up and resolve the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

Ambassador Kamal said that the Palestine National Council will meet soon in Tunisia to decide whether to continue attending the peace talks. The date of that meeting will be set as soon as the invitation to take part in the coming round is received, he added.

The Palestinian ambassador said that the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo was a message to the world and to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton. He added that Arab countries are faced with the urgent task of ending Israeli occupation as well as Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, the latest manifestation of which was the deportations.

Answering a question on whether there is a collective decision concerning Arab participation in the coming talks, the Palestinian ambassador said that Arab sides are sovereign and formulate their policies independently, but not in isolation from one another.

The Palestinian ambassador said that all Arab countries adhere to the resolutions passed by the Arab League concerning the Palestinian issue, chief of which are those concerning settlements, Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, and the support for the Palestinian intifadah.

Foreign Ministers Leave Cairo

NC1301072693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Arab foreign ministers began to leave Cairo this evening after attending the Arab League Council's emergency session on the Palestinian deportees' issue.

United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo this evening.

The Arab foreign ministers this morning concluded the Arab League Council's emergency session devoted to the Palestinian deportees' issue.

Syria Mediating Between Egypt, Sudan on Hala'ib

PM1201114393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jan 93 p4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syrian Mediation Between Egypt and Sudan on Hala'ib"]

[Text] Damascus—Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] and interior minister, has concluded a three-day visit to Damascus during which he delivered a message from [RCC Chairman] 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and held talks with senior Syrian officials on the latest developments regarding the dispute between Egypt and Sudan over the border area of Hala'ib.

Responsible sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the talks were positive and successful and that the Syrian officials expressed complete willingness to play any effective part that would help eliminate the current differences and disputes between Egypt and Sudan and find a solution that would safeguard the interests of both countries, preserve Arab solidarity, restore Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the context of the one Arab family, and prevent the intensification of the dispute and tension between the two fraternal countries.

It has been learned from responsible Syrian sources that Syria will make diplomatic moves between Egypt and Sudan with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the current dispute over Hala'ib. The sources said that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will discuss the issue with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting scheduled to be held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo tomorrow on the issue of the Palestinian deportees. It has also been learned that Syria will try to arrange a meeting between the Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers with the aim of resuming the dialogue between the two countries at a high level to contain the differences on the assumption that Sudan would withdraw its complaint to the United Nations over Hala'ib, that the dialogue committee would be revived, that the media campaigns would be suspended, and that all statements and actions leading to tension in the border areas would be stopped, particularly in view of the current military concentrations.

Syrian Mediation Role in Iran-Gulf States Dispute

PM1201124293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Shafiq al-Asadi and 'Abdallah al-Dardari: "Al-Shar' to Abu Dhabi on New Mediation To Resolve Dispute With Tehran"]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, Damascus—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday evening on a visit which diplomatic sources said falls within the framework of a mediation Damascus is conducting between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran to resolve the dispute over the islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa, in preparation for improving relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and the Islamic republic. [passage omitted]

Well-informed sources in Damascus have said that Syria is the "only party capable of playing an impartial mediation role between Iran and the Arab Gulf states in view of its distinctive relations with both sides and the importance it devotes to the establishment of a balanced and positive Arab-Iranian relationship with a view to establishing a regional security and cooperation, closing the door to foreign domination and interference."

The sources noted that Syria maintains cordial relations with the GCC states, which were consolidated after the Gulf war. And that its relations with Iran, which are described as strategic, are witnessing tangible progress with every high-level meeting held between the two sides, like the Joint Higher Committee's recent meetings in Tehran, where the Syrian side was headed by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

The sources pointed out that Damascus' objective from the mediation is primarily to guarantee Gulf security on the basis of an Arab-Iranian understanding that intercepts foreign interference. Syria also believes that Iran is an "important regional power which represents support for the Arab position in the face of Israeli intransigence, which is seeking to exploit international developments and devoid the peace process of its real content."

The sources emphasized that during the visits of Khaddam and al-Shar' Tehran expressed "clear willingness to cooperate with and respond to the Syrian mediation. In fact in this connection it presented positive initiatives, the Arab response to which could create a positive shift in relations between the Gulf states and Iran. The sources pointed out that Khaddam's statements at the end of his visit to Tehran reflected an agreement "that the foundations of the relationship between the two sides of the Gulf should be noninterference by any state in other states' affairs and respect for every state's sovereignty—which in itself is a strong basis for continuing the mediation, as it eliminates any concerns about or fears of this or that side's intentions." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Clinton 'Promises' Regarding Israel

NC1301071393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2118 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat praised President Mubarak's effort to resolve the Palestinian [as received] issue, saying Mubarak sees it as his daily concern, follows it up with full interest, and considers the issue his own responsibility. He noted that the cordon states foreign ministers issued resolutions on the need for the deportees' return to ensure the continuity of the peace negotiations.

This came in an interview with 'Arafat by the weekly AKHIR SA'AH to be published tomorrow [13 January]. He said: In the interests of the United States, more so than those of the Arabs and Palestinians, I sincerely hope President Clinton will not be committed to his election campaign statements on Israel concerning Jerusalem, because commitment to these electioneering promises will represent a ban toward Israel. We should wait and see before judging things by the way they seem so as not to lay the blame unjustly on the new U.S. Administration.

Al-Agha on Possible U.S. Veto, Peace Talks

TA1201204193 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Report on interview with Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by 'Imad al-Hinnawi in Gaza, on 11 January]

[Excerpt] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that a U.S. veto to prevent forcing Israel to return the deportees will deprive the United States of its credibility and will render the resumption of the peace talks impossible.

In an exclusive interview with AL-NAHAR yesterday, al-Agha considered the remarks by Palestinian delegation head Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi—linking Palestinian participation in the upcoming round of talks to the deportees' return—as expressing the position of all the Palestinian delegation members. Al-Agha stressed that the one and only solution to the deportees issue is implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for returning the deportees to their kinsfolk and homes.

Al-Agha emphasized that no one believes that the PLO will decide to return to the talks under the present circumstances. He added that the talks had stalled before the deportation decision, which was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

Al-Agha denied the existence of any pressure on the PLO to continue in the negotiations. He explained that the Arab states are well aware that the issue goes beyond deporting 415 residents and that the objective is to empty the occupied territories, which in other words is "transfer."

Al-Agha affirmed that there is no disagreement between the negotiating delegation and the PLO. Everyone agrees that it is not possible to continue in the negotiations due to the Israeli violations, foremost of which is the deportation decision. Al-Agha called for creating a mechanism for implementing Resolution 799.

Al-Agha endorsed the statement by delegation member Ghassan al- Khatib that deportation has deprived the negotiating delegation of the popular support required for continuing the talks. What is happening in the arena makes the Palestinian people question the benefit of continuing the talks as long as Israel continues its human rights violations and refuses to implement UN resolutions.

Al-Agha said that adoption by the Arab foreign ministers of a strong resolution will positively affect the Security Council resolutions. Al-Agha pointed out that reports on an interim agreement between Syria and Israel disturb the Palestinian delegation but will not make it lose its balance nor divert it from the right path.

Al-Agha considered the mere sitting together of the brothers from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah as a positive factor by itself. He expressed the hope that a firm and good relationship will be established between Fatah, Hamas, and the PLO and that he will soon see Hamas within the broad Palestinian framework, the PLO. [passage omitted]

Linkage of Deportees' Return to Talks Urged

TA1201195293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Hebron, QUDS PRESS—It has been noted that the number of leading Palestinian figures calling for boycotting the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington if the deportees are not returned to their homes has increased considerably during the past few days.

Palestinian sources interpret this development as a response to the pulse of the Palestinian street, which was horrified over Israel's deportation of more than 400

Palestinians from the occupied territories to south Lebanon. Some Palestinian leaders who only a week ago had called for resuming the talks under any circumstances are now publicly calling for boycotting, or at least postponing the talks, until the deportees return to their homes.

Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari, member of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks and head of Hebron University board of trustees, has said that the increasingly harsh tone of Palestinian leaders toward participation in the upcoming round of peace talks stems from "the position of the Palestinian street, which refuses to go back to Washington before the return of the deportees to their homes." Al- Ja'bari lauded the stance of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories toward deportation, and said: Palestinian national unity will force Israel to return the former and recent deportees.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief negotiator of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington, has said that the entire peace process no longer has any meaning since Israel has dealt a fatal blow to the process by deporting the 415 Palestinians. 'Abd-al-Shafi added: A country participating in the peace process which acts in such a manner is neither interested in nor cares for either us or peace.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, 'Abd-al-Shafi affirmed his decision to refrain from going to the talks as long as Israel does not return the deportees. 'Abd-al-Shafi noted that the peace process has not progressed due to the intransigent Israeli stance, and said: Israel, in its general approach, whether with regard to continuing settlement activity or escalating its practices, was undermining the credibility of the peace process. This affirms that it does not care for this process.

Professor 'Aziz 'Amr, member of the advisory delegation to the peace talks, has said: The issue of the deportees must be resolved first. There is no room for returning to Washington before the resolution of this issue. Going to the upcoming round without the return of the deportees will be useless. It will also be rejected by the Palestinian street.

Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem and member of the Palestinian delegation, has called for postponing the next round until Israel permits the deportees' return. Frayj had warned last week against boycotting the peace talks because of the deportation operation.

In a related development, Palestinian intellectuals are warning against the danger of concentrating on the deportees as the main and only reason for boycotting the upcoming talks in Washington. Those intellectuals say there are objective reasons which prevent the Palestinian negotiating delegation from going back to Washington.

A member of the negotiating delegation who requested to remain anonymous has said that until now Israel has rejected all the Palestinian national demands and is now trying to drive the Palestinian people and the negotiating delegation into "the ugly trap of autonomy," as he put it. This delegation member added: We should not appear before the world as if we oppose participation in the talks only because of the deportation issue and that we will acclaim and bless the talks if the deportees are returned.

More UN Pressure on Israel Over Deportees Urged

TA0801162393 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Flexibility Imposed by Pressure"]

[Text] By deciding yesterday to permit two International Red Cross [IRC] representatives to visit the deportees through territory which it occupies, Israel took a hasty "preemptive" step to ease the pressure in international circles generated by its deportation of 415 Palestinians to no-man's-land and its refusal to allow food, water, and medicine to reach them—a situation that subjected Israel to unprecedented criticism.

The timing of the Israeli step, which came a few hours before the arrival of the UN secretary general's envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan, raises many questions about the aims of the sudden Israeli "flexibility." This flexibility definitely does not stem from humanitarian motives by Israel's leaders as much as having been imposed by an international situation that has emerged since Israel's implementation of the deportation decision—a situation that is snowballing daily. This forced Israel's leaders to reassess their calculations in order to extricate themselves from a predicament of their own making.

Israel's leaders found themselves with two options only. Either continuing their intransigence on the issue of providing assistance to the deportees—an option that would increase international criticism of Israel, with even its friends unable to defend it—or easing international pressure by showing superficial flexibility, for one time only, thereby gaining praise for Israel. This is what actually happened when the new UN envoy arrived in Israel yesterday and lauded the Israeli step.

By taking this preemptive step, apparently Israel wanted to appear before the world as more concerned for the deportees than Lebanon, just as it also wanted to appear as if it had embarked on this step without any international pressure. The reason being that if this step had been announced after meeting the UN envoy, it would have given the impression that Israel had yielded to international pressure. This is something which Israel not only does not want but is combating.

In light of this, the United Nations should increase pressure on Israel, even if this requires the use of force, to press it to show more flexibility, to yield to international will, and to implement Resolution 799, which calls for the immediate and safe return of the deportees to their homeland.

PLO's al-Najjab on Deportees, Peace Talks

JN1201123893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 4

["Exclusive" interview with Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian People's Party, formerly the Palestinian Communist Party, by an unidentified reporter in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-RA'Y] What is the latest news on the PLO-Hamas dialogue?

[Al-Najjab] The first round of talks has been completed and other rounds should be held. We have agreed to continue joint work on ensuring the return of the brother deportees. We also agreed on the need to strengthen our unity and joint work to confront our basic enemy, the Israeli occupation, within the framework of intifadah activities. We will move ahead along these lines. This will help us tackle our political differences through dialogue and by respecting the views of one another, using political language without exchanging accusations or using nonpolitical means in dealing with our differences. This approach is being strengthened and must always be promoted.

[AL-RA'Y] But the differences between the PLO and Hamas are substantial. There are political and organizational differences, among others.

[Al-Najjab] We are not harboring the illusion that all our differences will be solved in one round, but still I would like to stress the following facts: The PLO leadership has defeated the Israeli game of portraying the expulsion of Hamas activists as a service to the peace process and to the PLO line. From the beginning, the PLO embraced the cause of the deportees and mobilized all resources at its disposal to defeat this Israeli crime. Regardless of our differences, there can be no dispute between us on a Palestinian's right to remain in his homeland. The PLO plays this role in its capacity as our people's leadership, their sole legitimate representative, their larger home, and the defender of their interests.

We must stress another fact, namely, Israel's failure to persuade Hamas to strike at the PLO and deny its being the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[AL-RA'Y] Dr. Nabil Sha'th [adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat] says that the peace talks could continue along with the continuation of the deportation decision, which could be discussed at the negotiating table.

[Al-Najjab] This is the personal opinion of Dr. Sha'th. This is not the first time that he has presented views contravening the PLO leadership's stands. In his statement, Dr. Sha'th, unlike others, apparently believes that the deportation decision does not affect the peace talks. How can we believe that Israel will implement Resolution 242, which was issued 25 years ago, when it refuses to implement Resolution 799, which was issued just a few days ago?

The Palestinian leadership's stand on this issue is clear and well-defined. How can we return to the talks before Israel commits to Resolution 799? We are working with all the concerned parties to help remove this newest obstacle to the peace process. Israel alone is responsible for any break in talks. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Abbas Regrets Stand During Gulf Crisis

JN1201153093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] In speeches made in Riyadh last night to mark the 28th anniversary of the inauguration of the Fatah Movement, Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member; and Subhi Abu- Karsh, the ambassador of Palestine in Riyadh and Fatah Central Committee member, regretted the Palestinian stand during the Gulf crisis.

Abu-Mazin said the crisis showed that the Palestinians should have looked where they were going lest they should lose their way. They would have thus shielded their cause and denied the enemy the chance to fish in troubled waters. Addressing brothers in Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf states, Abu-Mazin said that, during the Gulf crisis, the PLO never meant to support aggression or take the part of the wrong side. He regretted what happened, which he said was no easy matter, and hoped that the traces of the Gulf crisis should not be allowed to keep the the Arabs from getting together again.

The day before yesterday, Saudi sources said Mahumd 'Abbas' visit to the kingdom was being made at his own initiative for the sole purpose of attending the ceremony marking the Fatah anniversary. The ambassador of Palestine in the kingdom had approached the Saudi authorities over the visit, the sources noted.

Meanwhile, Abu-Karsh also regretted the Palestinian position, and said he thought the Palestinians should have steered clear of intra- Arab disagreements so as to be spared the kind of problems they encountered in the Gulf crisis. As a result, our Palestinian people have had to pay a heavy price in terms of their existence and steadfastness. Moreover, our position has caused indignation and resentment among the brotherly Gulf states. The Palestinian ambassador deeply regretted such stands, and, together with Mahmud 'Abbas, thanked Saudi Arabia for its support for the Palestinian people and cause, despite all circumstances and differences.

It should be noted that Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Governor of Riyadh, who sponsored the event, made a speech in which he stressed that Saudi Arabia supports the Palestinian cause and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in all spheres to promote a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Ultimatum to Iraq at Odds With Silence on Israel

PM1101160993 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Jan 93 p11

[Editorial: "A Provocative and Immoral Ultimatum to Iraq"]

[Text] It seems that U.S. President George Bush will not be able to get rid of his complex about Iraq and its president, not even after he leaves the White House. The man is possessed by that complex and will continue to do everything in his power to pass it on to President-elect Bill Clinton.

The clamor raised about the movement of Iraqi batteries within the prohibited area south of parallel 32 is completely unjustified. Iraqi aircraft have not violated the no-fly zone, and Iraqi ground defenses have not fired on U.S. aircraft, which are flying unchecked and undeterred in the region.

The U.S. President sees the movement of these missiles as a major international crisis comparable to the Soviet missile crisis in Cuba. He is beginning to act like a person alarmed, holding contacts with the allies with the aim of issuing a strongly-worded ultimatum to Iraq telling it to withdraw the missiles or face a new military aggression.

It is regrettable that such big powers as Britain, France, and Russia have gone along with this despicable attitude of the U.S. President. They have begun making threats and moving their aircraft to face this imaginary threat. Had it not been for the Chinese statement ridiculing these moves and stressing that Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected, we would have lost all hope of seeing a sensible and moral world power with a different approach.

Iraq has moved its missiles within its own territory and did not violate the territory of others. Defense of one's own territory and sovereignty is a logical thing accepted by all international laws. What is against international law is the starvation of the Iraqi people through blockade and the imposition of foreign states' and forces' control over parts of Iraqi territory.

When it declared a no-fly zone for Iraqi aircraft south of parallel 32, the United States was not relying on a Security Council resolution. It was unable to produce such a resolution because it knew that other Security Council members, especially China, would not agree because that would be a serious precedent which could mean giving the White House a free hand to repeat the same thing in other states in the world.

By moving its missiles, Iraq's aim is not to test Clinton's resolve or insult outgoing President Bush. Its aim is to expose U.S. double standards and hypocrisy and the weakness of the United Nations, which has become a tool in the hands of the U.S. President and the Western states in his orbit.

Why do aircraft and aircraft carriers act within hours when there is limited movement of antiaircraft missiles by Iraq within its own territory, and why does nobody act when Israel expels 415 Palestinians?

If the United States, France, Britain, and Russia really care about international legitimacy, they should all take the same stand against Israel to force it to implement resolution 799, issued only two weeks ago by the Security Council urging Israel to take the deportees back.

The Western ultimatum to Iraq is an affront not only to Iraq's dignity but also to the dignity of all the Arabs and Muslims. It is regrettable that most Arab and Islamic states have keep silent about it. Worst of all, some of them have even collaborated.

Sha'th Remarks on Talks Said Not PLO Position

TA1201153193 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that the statements attributed to brother Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee to the peace talks, do not express the PLO leadership's position.

Sha'th had stated in a newspaper interview that the Palestinian delegation will participate in the upcoming round of peace talks despite Israel's deportation of 415 Palestinians.

'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that from the first moment of the deportation decision, the PLO informed all concerned parties, including the sponsors of the peace conference, that the deportation decision prevents the resumption of negotiations and that only the return of the deportees and implementation of Resolution 799 can ensure the resumption of those negotiations.

The Palestinian official stressed that the PLO refuses to continue the negotiations amid the climate of deportation and collective repression. This position will remain in effect until the problem of the deportees is resolved through their immediate return to their homeland.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that this stance has gained widespread support from most of the Arab and international parties concerned. It is on this basis that the UN secretary general is making a new attempt to call on Israel to implement the Security Council resolution before the date of the upcoming round of negotiations.

The Palestinian official said that this stance has been relayed "to the U.S. Administration, which was called upon in particular to fulfill its role in securing the return of the deportees and stopping the policy of collective repression and human rights violation to which our people are being subjected."

Delegates Planning To Attend Peace Talks 15 Feb

TA1201160693 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 2

[Excerpt] AL-MANAR has learned from high-ranking diplomatic sources that the upcoming round of negotiations will be held in Washington on 15 February. The Palestinian delegation will be represented by only two delegates and a small number of advisers as well as the delegation's spokesman. Delegation head Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has refused to head the delegation and attend the upcoming round as long as the deportees problem is not completely resolved.

The Palestinian leadership, on the highest levels, has informed Arab and European capitals, as well as the U.S. Administration, that it will not boycott the upcoming round. At the same time, Arab and international parties are working to resume the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in order to enhance the PLO, so that this dialogue will help to reduce frustration among Palestinians stemming from continued Israeli practices, with no practical U.S. intervention to stop those practices. [passage omitted] [In a related report on page 1 of the same date, AL-MANAR carries the following item: "It has been learned that Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Dr. Nabil Qassis will participate in the upcoming round of talks with Israel."]

Hamas 'Regrets' Results of Arab League Meeting

NC1201182393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah said he regrets the results of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo, saying: We would have liked the Cairo meeting to have produced more serious results, at least to have provided for the withdrawal of the Arab delegations from the peace talks with Israel.

Algeria

'Terrorists' Killed by Special Forces Near Kadiria

LD1201225993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The National Gendarmerie Command has stated that five terrorists met their death yesterday evening near Kadiria, in Bouirs Province, at the hands of special forces of the People's National Army and National Gendarmerie an hour before the curfew ended.

The National Gendarmerie Command, which reported the incident, said the group of terrorists was tracked down on the basis of information supplied by citizens while they were getting ready to leave their safe house in a place called Kherba, west of Kadiria.

The National Gendarmerie forces seized the group's weapons: a submachine gun, two hunting rifles, and an automatic pistol, as well as some other equipment.

According to the National Gendarmerie Command, the terrorists have been identified as: (Hamza Ismail), alias El-Emir, who is a teacher in secondary education and has been on the wanted list since the Lakhdaria clashes in May 1992; (Shebani Amor), who was involved in the desertion of some servicemen; (Alwan Yocef), alias Ahmed; (Bechara Said); and another person nicknamed (Kacem) [name indistinct].

Exiled FIS Leader Kebir Warns of Jihad

PM1201165293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 4

[Telephone interview with Rabih Kebir, leader of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front, in "his exile in Germany" by Jamal Khashuqji in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashuqji] How would you assess the French foreign minister's assertion that his country will support the Algerian regime?

[Kebir] France considers itself the country of freedoms, which is why we are surprised by that position. How can it announce its support for a regime which is opposed to all the freedoms France believes in? France knows how many faces have changed in the power pyramid in Algeria over the past year, but the people have remained the same. So French officials should think about the Algerian people and maintain a good relationship with them, because it is they who will continue to exist, whereas decisionmakers in Algeria cannot guarantee their future.

[Khashuqji] Can the positive development between France and Algeria be understood to mean that the Algerian Government has succeeded in convincing the French that it has brought the situation under control and contained the crisis?

[Kebir] That is impossible, because people inside and outside the country have stressed that the regime has proved its impotence in all domains and it will most certainly fall. This is why we consider the French foreign minister's support suspicious, and he should submit the justifications for announcing his support. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] What is the status of the relations between you and German officials, and what assistance do they provide to you?

[Kebir] We meet with politicians here, but at present I prefer not to reveal anything about this subject for special reasons.

[Khashuqji] How do you view Algeria a year after President Chadli Bendjedid's dismissal [iqalah], and is the Islamic Front still capable of reaching power?

[Kebir] The Islamic Front tried to reach power through peaceful and democratic means. It convinced the Algerian people of its program, so they voted for it. But the ruling clique refused to assume power by turns, which is a basic principle in free and democratic states, and thus staged its coup, passing unconstitutional laws for what it termed "combating violence," when it was the regime which began the violence, whereas the people responded with a jihad movement to reject oppression and tyranny.

[Khashuqji] Has armed action become the only means for the Islamists to achieve their ambitions?

[Kebir] The authorities' violence imposed this method on us, and the Algerian people have chosen the jihad path. When there are other means, the Islamic Front has since its establishment been most anxious to avert bloodshed.

[Khashuqji] Does describing the people's reaction as a jihad mean that the Islamic Front has declared the jihad in Algeria?

[Kebir] The Islamic Front has not hitherto declared the jihad. But it considers the resistance exercised by the mujahidin to be a jihad for the cause of God. And if conditions continue to develop in the present manner, and if the authorities' intransigence continues, the Islamic Salvation Front will declare the jihad against that clique. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] There have been reports that the United States too is reconsidering its position—which contains reservations about helping the Algerian Government—and that it is now convinced of the threat posed by Islamic fundamentalism.

[Kebir] When the elections were canceled in Algeria a year ago the putschists justified this to the West by saying that they were protecting democracy and public freedoms from those threatening them. So what was was done after that? Freedoms were violated, newspapers were banned, freedom of expression was shackled, and

economic corruption spread. Is this compatible with the principles of freedom and democracy which the United States claims to believe in?

Government Council Discusses Draft Finance Bill

LD1201115793 Algiers APS in English 1032 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, Jan 12 (APS)—The Council of Government met Sunday here under the chairmanship of the head of government, Belaid Abdessalam. It examined the report of the Consultative Council related to the draft legislative decrees for the 1993 finance bill and budgets, mainly proposals of amendments and recommendations as well as comments and appreciations related to the financial and budgetary policy proposed by the government.

The Council of Government adopted a series of amendments to the draft finance bill which will be presented for approval by the forthcoming Council of Ministers. Concerning the financial balance, the Council of Government underlined the choices adpted are aimed at preserving the purchasing power of citizens in the frame of tensions exercized at present on the financial resources of the country. The realization of this objective necessitates a greater discipline of economic and social operators both in the field of prices and salaries, to contain the eventual inflationist effects.

Belaid Abdessalam who said he "completely agrees" with this approach, expressed the will and the "readiness' of his government to work in this way with operators of the sector of public and private press "without distinction'. Concerning the concrete problems raised by the officials of the national press, the head of government said proposals must come from the concerned persons themselves in consultation with the public powers. The criteria and conditions of eligibility to the state assistance "in present conditions of economic constraints", he added, must be elaborated so as to enable the press to assume its social and professional functions. If related to the present situation lived through by the country, a press article, the head of government said, is at least as sensible as a terrorist action, in terms of impact on the opinion.

A number of journalists present in this meeting which was attended by Messaoud Ait Chaalal, advisor of the head of government and spokesman of the government [title as received], and Mrs Benmihoub Zerdani [name as received], minister advisor to judicial and administrative affairs, had a symbolic significance as the head of the executive got in touch with officials of the press, mainly the independent one after a series of "contentions" between the public powers and the press. They also consider that it was a way to say that the government does not intend to restrain the freedom of the press and to inform it of its "readiness" to assume its part of responsibility in the exercise of the "social function" of the press.

Egypt

Mubarak Telephones al-Asad To Discuss Arab Issues

NC1201194193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1908 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this evening, and the two leaders exchanged views on recent developments on a number of Arab issues and discussed several issues of common interest.

Mubarak Heads for Damascus for Talks With al-Asad

NC1301085493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Damascus this morning on a short visit to Syria. He will hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Arab and international developments, including the Middle East peace process, the deportees' issue and its impact on the peace process and the Arab- Israeli peace talks, and the situation on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.

Mubarak is accompanied by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa.

U.S. Said Ready To Send Troops Against 'Terrorism'

NC1201183093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 93 pp 1, 9

[All punctuation as published]

[Text] The United States has offered to send highly trained U.S. troops equipped with advanced weapons to some regional countries to face what it called the threats posed by (terrorist) groups to these countries' security. Political sources told AL- SHA'B that in the past few days, U.S. President George Bush sent messages to leaders of several Arab and Islamic states expressing the U.S. Administration's willingness to help regional countries eliminate the phenomenon of (terrorism) and (terrorist) acts sponsored by some regional countries in the name of religion. Bush noted that he consulted with President-elect Bill Clinton about security and stability in the Arab and Islamic region and pointed out that the new President is even more enthusiastic about this stability.

In his messages to regional leaders, Bush explained that the mission of the U.S. troops to be sent to the region—should the countries concerned agree to it—would not be confined to tracking down the culprits of (terrorist) acts, but would also seek to eliminate the masterminds of these acts. Bush said he believed that Iran, Iraq, and some other countries will try to step up (terrorism) in

Egypt, the Gulf states, and some Arab Maghreb states (Bush is trying to spread fear and concern among most Arab states). Bush said there was a need for regional states to agree on clear outlines to face (terrorism). He expressed the United States' readiness to take part in any military plans to eliminate sources of (terrorism) in the region. He said European states would support the U.S. moves if the regional countries so requested. He stressed the need to intensify contacts between the U.S. Administration and the region's countries to face what he called the "danger of terrorism disguised under the name of religion" so that an agreement could be reached on the nature of the U.S. force required to face this "terrorism."

The sources stressed that in their reply to Bush's messages, some regional leaders noted the ability of their troops to confront the culprits and masterminds of the "terrorist" operations.

U.S., Israeli Positions on Deportees Viewed

NC1101080193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0647 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper declares in its editorial today that if the statement the Israeli ambassador in Washington made is true—that the U.S. Administration pledged to his government that it will use its right of veto on any Security Council resolution against Israel for deporting 415 Palestinians—then this shatters all U.S. allegations regarding human rights anywhere, reveals the clear falseness and bias in the United States' dealings, and belittles the new world order.

It points out that the Palestinian deportees issue and the harsh circumstances they are facing as a result of an unjust and baseless decision have heightened emotions everywhere in the world. Nevertheless, the U.S. Administration does not see it as a violation of human rights, of which it has appointed itself a defender.

It says: If this is the new style prevailing over the new world order, then we might as well kiss the world goodbye.

AL-AHRAM newspaper clarifies in its editorial today that Israel's decision to deport 415 Palestinian was perhaps a test balloon to measure the repercussions and amount of pressure it would have to bear. If it gets away with this action, it would be a precedent for further deportations to get rid of all undesirable Palestinians.

The paper added that if all roads were blocked before Israel, then it could go back on its decision. But it will do so only with difficulty and by making proposals and giving alternatives, as the foreign minister calls them, through which it will make the largest amount of profit or record the greatest number of precedents in the traditional Israeli way.

The paper expressed hope that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali's threat to take other steps through the Security Council to compel Israel to respect its resolution on the deportees is serious and correct. Only on the basis of this resolution can the Security Council handle other issues seriously and effectively.

Columnist Contemplates Policy Changes Under Clinton

NC0901220193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Jan 93 p 14

[From the "Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] President Bush will leave the White House for the last time in 14 days and new President Bill Clinton will enter it for the first time the next day.

Many will regret that the curtain will fall on President Bush and they will come to appreciate his value, which they were ignorant of. They will also regret the abuse they have heaped on him.

This is so because his successor will have a new policy. Clinton has frankly declared that his policy is "to ensure the granting of enough aid to 50,000 refugees from the former Soviet Union annually and to resettle them in the United States" and "to back Israel's demand to obtain our help in resettling hundreds of thousands of Jews coming from the former Soviet Union. The Bush administration committed an error when it made hundreds of thousands of persons, whose freedom we have demanded, the prisoners of a political conflict."

He also said that Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel and must remain an undivided city and open to people from all religions. He declared that "the Palestinians must have the right, as stipulated in the Camp David agreements, to participate in determining their future, but they do not have the right to decide Israel's future. We oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state for this reason."

Clinton also publicly announced that the Bush administration "inflicted heavy damage on our relations with Israel. It committed an error when it pressured Israel to make unilateral concessions in the peace process. It committed an error when it ignored the harsh economic boycott of Israel by its Arab neighbors and ignored the obstacles on the road to peace. It also committed an error when it rejected Israel's demand to obtain humanitarian aid to resettle the Russian Jews and it committed an error when it eroded Israel's security by selling advanced weapons worth billions of dollars to its Arab neighbors."

Clinton also said that "We are opposed to the measures taken by the Bush administration. We believe that this is not at all the way to treat a permanent friend and a stable democracy." He finally said: "We need a strong international effort and stringent measures to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of tyrants such as those in Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Syria."

This is not happy news. But it is the truth and we must know it.

Anti-Israeli Demonstrations Reported at Universities

NC1201194693 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1905 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Angry demonstrations took place in some universities today for the second consecutive day to protest the Israeli Government's decision to deport Palestinians from their land. The demonstrators denounced Zionist practices against the Palestinian people and chanted slogans denouncing the Israeli Government for its intransigence on the deportee issue and its defiance of world opinion.

The demonstrators called on international organizations and the Egyptian Government to pressure Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 779 and return the deportees to their homeland. Thousands of students took part in the protests. The demonstrators described the Israeli Government's decision as a violation of human rights and an obstacle to the Middle East peace talks. The decision makes Israel an enemy of peace, the demonstrators said.

Security forces adopted stringent measures to prevent the demonstrations from marching out [of campuses] into the streets. Strong security measures were taken in front of the main and side gates of the campus [not further specified].

Secret Meeting Between Israelis, Syrians Reported

NC1201182193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] According to news agencies in occupied Jerusalem, sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry affirmed yesterday that Syrian and Israeli officials met secretly in Cairo, Paris, and Rome at the end of the summer. The sources also confirmed Egypt's mediation in the secret talks.

They said the Syrian and Israeli delegations reached an agreement in principle stipulating the withdrawal of Israeli forces from some locations in the occupied Golan Heights in return for Syrian intervention to stop Hizballah activities in southern Lebanon and a declaration that the state of war with Israel will end over five years. The agreement also stipulated discussing the final peace treaty between the two countries during the same period and defining the final settlement between Israel and the Palestinian people.

Iraq, Hamas-Iranian-Israeli 'Cooperation' Viewed

NC1301114393 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 11 Jan 93 pp 4-5

[Article by Mahmud al-Tuhami: "Baghdad's Dangerous Maneuvers"]

[Excerpts] Eyewitnesses arriving from Baghdad recently indicate that conditions there have deteriorated to a state that is hard to describe. Worst of all is the lack of hope for a domestic change that would put Iraq back on the world map and pave the way to rectify that which the regime has ruined on the regional, international, local, and Arab levels by invading Kuwait and defying the international will—the mistakes that led to the Desert Storm war and the destruction of the Iraqi military power and the economic and strategic structure. [passage omitted]

Iraq's absence from the Arab and Gulf arenas certainly harms the Arab cause and the Gulf region. I doubt that the basic facts in this connection are a secret to anyone, because the negative effects are represented in the failure of Arab reconciliation and solidarity efforts, which often break on the rocks represented by the continuing existence of the aggressive regime in Iraq. It is inconceivable to expect Arabs to forget as long as this regime remains. Preserving the interests of the Iraqi people also depends on that regime being eliminated and new powers emerging that are well qualified to cooperate with Arab neighbors and the world, East and West.

Furthermore, the continuing existence of the Iraqi regime still embarrasses the Arab powers that backed it. These states are vulnerable to a dreadful deterioration; they are gradually being transformed into reservoirs for radical powers and chambers to hatch extremism and terrorism.

I believe that many of the explosive phenomena in the Arab region are largely the repercussions of the Gulf war and its negative aftermath. Keeping the file of that war open deprives us of the chance to invest its positive impacts in the Arab cause.

The Gulf war has undoubtedly shown, among other things, the difference between the American and Israeli interests, or at least the possibility of noticing this difference. This is a vital point for future relations in the region, because it makes it in everyone's interest, including Israel's, to achieve a just and all-embracing peace. [passage omitted]

A true interest in achieving peace in the Middle East must involve all the parties concerned. Although the Palestinian people's struggle for their land and rights has gone on too long and although the anticipation of results inspires despair and encourages extremist elements, we believe that achieving peace for the Palestinians and restoring their rights is not easy. Reaching an agreement with the Israeli Government will take more time, but the just and comprehensive peace will eventually be achieved.

I would like to refer here to reports of cooperation among some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements and the Iranians and Israelis. These elements reportedly receive instructions and funds from these two sides and are hiding behind the Palestinian intifadah to create a tense atmosphere whenever Israel wants to

evade negotiations. These elements might be used to ruin peace efforts and put the blame on the Palestinian side. Theoretically and logically, I tend to believe this. We would like to warn against handing the intifadah over to a bunch of extremists who work for Iran and Israel.

The Palestinian leadership must realize that moderate policies have produced results. True, these results have not ripened, but they will ripen, although not in the hands of a bunch of extremists.

The Palestinians can ask themselves the same question the Israelis ask themselves: Can a state that exists hand over land under its control to a bunch of extremists—even if they are the true owners of the land—on which to build a state? Things would certainly be more complex and confused. I say that the extremist Iranian interference in the affairs of the Palestinian struggle raises many big questions and obstructs peace. The congruence between Israeli interests and Iranian actions is not surprising, because Israel is the last to contemplate recognizing the Palestinians' rights. The best way to ruin all positive efforts is to let a band of conspirators control a group of brainless, powerless people—a group that can be used as instruments of sabotage and destruction under the cover of religious, and often extremist, slogans now that sectarian slogans have receded and the communist camp has bolted its door. [passage omitted]

'Father' of Imbabah's Terrorist Groups Arrested

NC1201194093 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1910 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—A six-hour search operation in the Bulaq al-Daqrur, Imbabah, and Nahiya areas [of greater Cairo] succeeded in netting "the great mahdi" [al-mahdi al-kabir], father of Imbabah's terrorist groups, and 30 of his active supporters. The campaign also uncovered large stores of swords and explosive devices.

The arrested terrorist, 'Adil Jalal al-'Iraqi, alias Yasir, a hotel management student, recruited young men into the organization and directed their bomb attacks on police vehicles. This information came out during the interrogation of those arrested.

The arrested individuals confessed their crimes, which consisted chiefly of attacks on weddings and police cars.

Editorial Criticizes Sudan, Iraq Over 'Illusions'

NC1001192493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari, in an article published by the paper today, dealt with the link between the Sudanese and Iraqi presidents' actions.

Al-Ansari asked what sources of power the Sudanese regime relied on to declare a large-scale political war on Egypt when it decided to change the international border and annex Hala'ib—which belongs to someone else—and make it its own. He also asked what sources of power Saddam Husayn relied on when he entered into confrontation with and challenged the United States, the allies, and the Security Council resolutions that provide cover for and give legitimacy to their actions when—I believe—Iraq is not ready for military or even diplomatic action. He added: Baghdad and Khartoum have fallen into the same old trap, that of the illusion that dragged them into the Gulf crisis, the Kuwaiti invasion, and the resulting catastrophes that the two countries and the Arab nation still suffer. He said the outcome of adventures and illusions will be grave for Sudan, Iraq, and the entire Arab nation.

Al-Ansari went on to say: What do al-Bashir and his colleague Hasan al-Turabi want by playing with the fire of a dispute with a brother and an attempt to annex part of a territory that does not belong to them, while ignoring and giving up the southern half of Sudan? He added: What do al-Turabi and his group want from Hala'ib when Egypt and Sudan have lived as one people and one valley? Do they want to escape the problems facing their regime by opening an external front even with a brother?

He asked: What does Saddam Husayn want from the uncalculated escalation of a hot issue that threatens to become war? He added: All the signs indicate that this escalation has diverted media attention to Iraq from the tragedy of the Palestinian deportees in Lebanon and again Israel will benefit while Iraq and the Arabs will have only more destruction and losses.

The chief editor stresses that "igniting Egypt" is not in Egypt's or anyone else's interest. He warned al-Turabi against playing with fire or playing with the fate of Sudan and the region.

Algerian Trade Union Leader Holds News Conference

LD1201121693 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12/01/93 (APS)—"The Arab nation is facing at the present time hostile actions led from abroad, aiming first of all at hampering development efforts in the Arab countries", Abdelhak Benhamouda, general secretary of the Algerian Workers General Union (UGTA) declared in a press conference held in Cairo. The UGTA and the Algerian people, Benhamouda indicated, oppose actions led by groups which hide behind religion, pointing out the part of the western media in the exaggeration of crimes perpetrated by these groups.

On another turn, Benhamouda called for the rehabilitation of relations between the Arab countries and the restoration of solidarity to reach the economic complementarity. Furthermore, Benhamouda put a stress on the UGTA concern to reinforce cooperation relations and the coordination with the General Union of Trade-Unions of Egyptian Workers notably in fields of information. In this context, he announced that an accord was

reached between the two unions to defend rights and interests of Arab workers living in Europe.

Besides, Benhamouda indicated that his talks were also centered on other themes notably the phenomenon of terrorism and means to face it, precising that "it is imperative to mobilize to face these terrorist groups in order to guarantee security and stability of the world of labour". Our countries, Benhamouda still said, entertain relations with international institutions and European countries adding "we have to envisage a strategy to reinforce our relations with different European trade-unions". On another turn, the UGTA general secretary, estimated necessary a rapprochement of points of views between the Arab states to overcome divergences springing from the Gulf war and which affected the Arab trade-union movement.

PRC Political Delegation Concludes Visit

NC1201155093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1207 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Qian Weichang, vice chairman of the Chinese people's Political Consultative Conference, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning following a five-day visit at the invitation by Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi. While here, the Chinese delegation was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Musa Welcomes Somali Reconciliation Results

NC1201162493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the positive results produced by the Somali reconciliation preliminary meeting in Addis Ababa.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa reiterated in a press statement today that the cease-fire agreement worked out by the various factions in Somalia and the agreement to cooperate with the United Nations and to hold the reconciliation final meeting in Mogadishu have revitalized hope for the return of security and stability in fraternal Somalia.

Musa said that the preliminary Somali reconciliation meeting represents a positive and encouraging starting point and urged all Somali factions to cooperate to enable their country to ride out its current crisis.

In his statement, the foreign minister said that the dialogue and negotiations among the sons of fraternal Somalia and their renunciation of acts of violence and war are a sublime example for preserving the Somali national reconciliation. He stressed Egypt's readiness to support all efforts to achieve this national reconciliation.

The foreign minister said that the role being played by Egyptian troops in Somalia is part of international efforts to establish peace in Somalia and implement the Security Council resolutions. Musa also affirmed that Egypt is ready to immediately participate in offering its know-how for the sake of reconstructing what the war had destroyed. He expressed the hope that the reconciliation conference, slated to be held in both Addis Ababa and Mogadishu, will work out a final agreement and establish security and stability in fraternal Somalia.

Minister Views Rescheduling of Debts, New Loans

NC1001160593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1627 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has said Egypt will complete the rescheduling of its $18 billion debts with 17 friendly foreign countries by the end of January. He said talks are currently taking place with Italy to reschedule $600 million.

The minister said $14 billion of the total Egyptian debt has been written off, including $7 billion in military debts to the United States and another $7 billion to the fraternal Arab countries.

Minister Makramallah pointed out that negotiations are under way with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for a $50-million easy loan to build schools to replace those destroyed by the earthquake.

Touching on Egyptian-European cooperation, the minister said a new protocol has been signed with the EC according to which Egypt will obtain 560 million worth of European Currency Unit on easy interest to be used to implement of projects as part of the Egyptian development strategy. He said another protocol worth 230 million Egyptian pounds has also been signed to finance electricity, tourism, agricultural, and irrigation projects.

Libya

Border Reopened After Protesting Sanctions

NC1201111993 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Jan 12 (AFP)—Libya reopened its border with Egypt Tuesday [12 January] after closing it for three days in protest at a UN air embargo.

One hundred vehicles travelling in both directions crossed the border at al-Sallum, an AFP correspondent reported. The border with Tunisia was also due to open Tuesday.

Libya closed its land borders to protest UN sanctions banning flights in and out of the country. The UN Security Council imposed the ban on Libya on April 15, 1992 after Tripoli failed to cooperate with investigations into the bombings of U.S. and French airliners that killed 440 people.

Border Closings, Internal Arrest Campaign Linked

PM1301112493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Ibrahim Sahd, official spokesman for the Libyan National Salvation Front, has said that the Libyan authorities' closure of the borders "falls within the framework of a new campaign of terrorism and violence against the Libyan people."

He added: "The Front has received information from inside Libya indicating that the authorities have begun large-scale arrests of youths, especially as the closure of the borders is aimed at facilitating the task of detaining certain citizens and preventing them from leaving the country."

He said that "the Front has received information that numbers of the Libyan regime's elements have arrived in a number of European states under a plan aimed at assassinating a number of Libyan immigrants living abroad. The Front informed the states concerned in the past of (Libyan leader) Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's intention to resume the physical liquidation campaign against opponents, and it has begun once again to make contacts with these states, which have emphasized that they are monitoring these elements' movements."

Oil Production To Be Reduced Starting 15 Jan

LD1301085393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jan (JANA)—A [words indistinct] at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Energy said that the OPEC meeting in Geneva last December adopted a decision to restrict the production ceiling to 24.582 million barrels of crude oil a day for the [word indistinct] quarter of this year. The [production] ceiling had been decided on the understanding that it would lead to improving prices and bringing them to the $21 dollars-a-barrel reference price level. According to that decision, a reduction in the production of some of OPEC's [word indistinct] countries, whose production exceeds the levels agreed on, was expected. Though more than a month has passed since the organization's (?decision), prices continued to deteriorate. This confirms that some member countries have not put OPEC's decision on production levels into effect, let alone that the ceiling which OPEC determined could have exceeded the actual demand for its crude oil.

At a time when the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Energy is watching developments in the oil market with grave concern, it affirms that it has implemented OPEC's decision with effect from 1 January 1993, and that it has completely adhered to it, except that it believes that the current situation requires the adoption of additional measures. Therefore it has decided to voluntarily cut its production by 50,000 barrels a day from 15 January 1993.

The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Energy appeals [word indistinct] to OPEC's member countries [word indistinct] to put the production levels into effect and also appeals to them to carry out a voluntary reduction [in their production], following Libya's example, so as to restore stability to the oil market and improve the prices in the service of their common interest.

Kuwait

UN Source Reports Fourth Iraqi Border Incursion

LD1301092493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0827 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 Jan (KUNA)—UNIKOM [UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] spokesman Abdellatif Kabbaj has announced that for the fourth consecutive day Iraqi elements today crossed the Kuwaiti borders and seized civilian equipment.

In a statement to KUNA, Kabbaj said that the method the Iraqis used yesterday to dismantle and steal civilian equipment from Kuwaiti territory in the demilitarized zone was the same method used over the past few days.

The official did not determine the number of Iraqi elements, who normally wear civilian uniforms in such situations, and he did not specify the nature of the equipment that they seized. However, Kabbaj told the KUNA mission on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, "they are continuing to steal equipment." [passage omitted]

Airspace Open; Residents 'Panic'

NC1301120693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1141 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Jan (MENA)—An authoritative Kuwaiti source has denied rumors circulating today that Kuwait has closed its airspace to air traffic because of an anticipated new strike on Iraq.

The source told MENA that air traffic is normal, Kuwaiti airspace is open, and nothing unusual is happening.

Many Kuwaitis and residents of Kuwait have withdrawn large amounts of deposits from Kuwaiti banks for fear of new developments in the tense situation between the allied states and Iraq affecting normal life in Kuwait. The repeated Iraqi violations of Kuwaiti territory have caused panic among the Kuwaitis.

The Kuwaiti authorities have taken the maximum security measures to deal with every contingency following the increase in tension in the region.

Army Ready To Protect Country

LD1201172093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1539 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Jan (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah affirmed today that the Kuwaiti Army is fully ready to protect Kuwait and to safeguard its sovereignty and independence. In a statement he read before the National Assembly, he said: "There are defensive lines on our northern and northwestern borders which are able to repel any Iraqi surprise attack."

He also informed the members of the Assembly that the Kuwaiti Army on the northern border has been on the alert since 26 February 1991. He also pointed out that the Army and friendly and fraternal forces are fully ready for any Iraqi adventure or foolhardiness. The minister thus was commenting on the repeated Iraqi crossings of the Kuwaiti borders, the latest of which took place this morning.

The minister pointed out that the center of the Kuwaiti area of Umm Qasr known as Khawr has a specific characteristic due to the existence of five warehouses containing civilian and military equipment. The defense minister pointed out that the UN Security Council has ordered these centers to remain under the complete control of the UN forces known as "UNIKOM," even though they are situated within recognized Kuwaiti borders.

He said the Security Council issued a resolution saying that only civilian equipment may be transferred from this center, and that the military equipment and ammunition must be destroyed in accordance with the binding international laws issued by the Security Council.

He stressed that the Iraqi behavior since 10 January violates the law, and pointed out: Iraq has entered this area and these warehouses by force, disregarding the warnings of UNIKOM; no side has the right to enter them.

In his statement before the members of the Assembly, the defense minister said that immediately after the aggression, officials from Kuwait and the UN forces "UNIKOM" met, at Kuwait's request, to coordinate their broadcasting of the news for the benefit of public opinion. However, the UN forces asked that the news not be broadcast before they have submitted a report on the Iraqi violations to the UN Security Council, and this is what has happened.

Envoys Briefed on Stance Toward Violations

LD1201151193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwait informed ambassadors of the five permanent UN Security Council members today of its stance regarding Iraqi violations of Kuwaiti borders. This came at a meeting between Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and the ambassadors, during which he briefed them on Kuwait's stance toward Iraq's violation and defiance of UN resolutions by penetrating Kuwait's international borders for the third consecutive day.

An authorized source at the Foreign Ministry has told the Kuwaiti News Agency [KUNA] that Undersecretary al-Shahin conveyed to the ambassadors Kuwait's appreciation for their countries' stands and for their feeling of moral and political responsibility for maintaining security and stability in this vital part of the world. [passage omitted]

Undersecretary al-Shahin also met privately with the Chinese ambassador to Kuwait and discussed with him bilateral relations between the two countries and issues of common interest. Al-Shahin also met with General Timothy Dibuama, UN chief military observer, to discuss Iraqi

violations of Kuwait's borders and Iraq's lack of respect for the UN presence in the demilitarized zone based on UN Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Undersecretary al-Shahin told KUNA that he conveyed to the general Kuwait's readiness for full cooperation with the United Nations, out of Kuwait's eagerness to respect UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Condemns Border Violations

LD1201214893 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, condemned the Iraqi regime's violations of the Kuwaiti border region. In a statement on arrival in the country tonight, after leading the delegation of the State of Kuwait to the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting in Cairo, he said that those violations put peace and security in the region in very serious danger. The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister called on the international community to adopt measures to make the Iraqi regime stop its violations of the resolution on cease-fire during the war of liberation of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Interviewed on Security Issues

LD1201210493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

[News conference by Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defence and aviation, and inspector general, with unidentified reporters, at a military graduation ceremony in Riyadh on 12 January—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What can you tell your sons, this year's graduates?

[Sa'ud] First of all, I advise them to keep their faith in God Almighty. I advise them to continue to work hard. This is the first step toward achieving the ambitions hoped for by all Saudi youngsters. This college has provided great achievements for its graduates, who were at the forefront in showing the required spirit of nationalism. I hope, God willing, that this path will be followed by everybody.

[Reporter] Your Highness, through its recent provocations, the Iraqi regime is trying to create tension in the region. What can you tell us about this?

[Sa'ud] May God bring them back to the right path.

[Reporter] Your Highness, some observers believe that the region is witnessing a fast arms race, especially as there are some states, who could be described as not moderate, which repesent a danger for the region as far as this race is concerned. Do you not think that this race threatens security and stability in the region?

[Sa'ud] I believe that the arms race is a result of mad behaviour by the sides in question, as you mentioned. However, I hope that reason and wisdom will prevail, and that we can spend our money to promote the development of our distinguished peoples.

[Reporter] Your Highness, during their recent summit, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] leaders received a number of recommendations and propositions regarding the GCC's cooperation in security matters. However, this GCC unified formula and strategy in the military field has not surfaced yet. Will it take the shape of providing support for the Peninsula Shield forces, or creating the proposed Gulf army?

[Sa'ud] Support for the Peninsula Shield forces is a continuation of Gulf military cooperation. God willing, in the future, it will form the nucleus of the Gulf states' armed forces, which will serve the Gulf states and the Arab nation.

[Reporter] Regarding security cooperations and the meaning of security in the region between the Damascus Declaration states, is there a difference between Egypt and Syria on the one side, and the GCC on the other?

[Sa'ud] No, on the contrary. There are no differences. There is a spirit of brotherhood, amity, and cooperation.

[Reporter] Your Highness, with regard to the spiteful media campaigns that are directed against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from time to time, how can we confront these campaigns and what role can Saudi media play?

[Sa'ud] Usually the targets of media campaigns are those who are successful. If we are to work seriously, we have to put up with any view from those who are jealous and spiteful.

Yemen

Group Plans To Blow Up U.S. Aircraft Reported

PM1201142093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Abu-Ra'sayn Planned To Blow Up U.S. Aircraft"]

[Excerpt] Aden—A responsible source in the Investigation Department of the Aden Governorate has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Yislam Abu-Ra'sayn, who claims to be [tribal] chieftain of Shabwah Governorate, was involved in the recent bombings in a number of Yemen governorates. He confirmed that the security authorities arrested eight of his followers yesterday. Initial investigations have revealed that "Shaykh" Abu-Ra'sayn had, with Jamal al-Nahdi, on 23 December put

the final touches to the plan to plant explosives in the Aden Hotel, the Golden Moor Hotel, and Aden's international airport.

The source said that the accused confessed that their aims included blowing up a giant U.S. Navy Galaxy aircraft parked at Aden airport. The security authorities had discovered a missile near the airport on the same night and before the accused Yislam Faraj al-Khabanshi could fire it. The source also said that the Jihad Organization was operating in two directions at the same time. While it was carrying out operations including blowing up vital installations and utilities such as power and water stations, airport facilities, and nursery schools [as published], it also was planning political assassinations to liquidate a large number of security and police personnel and leaders of the (ruling) Yemeni Socialist Party and the General People's Congress.

Recent investigations revealed the complicity of 30 people who will stand trial soon. They also revealed that groups from that organization received training in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the northern Governorate of Sa'dah, and also that some arrested Arab nationals had received military training at the Sa'dah training camp with the aim of carrying out "terrorist" operations in Yemen and some Arab countries. The trials are expected to uncover many facts about the activities of these groups. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Radio Reports U.S. Air Strike Launched

NC1301174193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1736 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Just in from the editor's desk: In a very urgent dispatch, REUTER has reported that the United States and its allies have beguan air raids against Iraq. We will have more details as available.

Two 'Huge Explosions' Inside Iraq Heard in Iran

LD1301175193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic News Agency [IRNA] has reported two huge explosions inside Iraq. On the basis of that report the sound of those explosions could be heard in Abadan around noon. But we have no news on the cause of the explosions or how they happened.

Saddam Adviser Says Iraq To 'Take Back' Kuwait

NC1301111393 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Jan 13 (AFP)—Iraq is determined to take back Kuwait, the oil rich emirate it invaded more than two years ago, President Saddam Husayn's adviser said Wednesday.

'Abd-al-Jabir Muhsin said the oil-rich emirate was "an integral part of Iraq ... [ellipsis as received] and will return to Iraq despite the United States and the Security Council."

His statement was carried in Wednesday's edition of the government daily AL-JUMHURIYAH. [passage omitted]

"George Bush surely knows that Kuwait is part of Iraq and that this is a historical reality that international treaties or international plots cannot change," Muhsin said.

"George Bush should know that leaders like the Sauds, Sabahs and Mubarak," the rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt who were U.S. allies in the Gulf war, are destined to disappear, he added. [passage omitted]

Letter to Security Council Warns of 'Aggression'

JN1301103393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1006 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] New York, 13 Jan (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has expressed Iraq's extreme regret over the unobjective statement issued the day before yesterday [11 January] by the Security Council.

In a letter received today by Yoshio Hatano, president of the Security Council for January, the foreign minister condemned the U.S. Administration and Britain in particular because they are seeking to reshuffle the cards.

He added: The world has now discovered the falsity of the U.S. claim that imposing a ban on Iraqi flights south of the 32d parallel is a resolution issued by the United Nations, while this resolution is a unilateral one that violates Iraqi sovereignty and seeks to interfere in Iraqi domestic affairs and partition Iraq.

The foreign minister noted that the United States and Britain are trying to commit a new aggression against Iraq—because it is exercising its natural right to sovereignty over its land and airspace—through fabricated and feverish attempts to distort facts and reshuffle the cards. The aim is to make things look as if Iraq was violating Security Council resolutions or challenging the Security Council, as they claim.

The foreign minister said: Iraq has not violated the UN Security Council resolutions and has no intention of challenging the Council. He asserted: Iraq does not wish to have problems with the Security Council and affirms its desire to hold a dialogue with it and with all those desirous of doing so to reach an understanding based on justice, fairness, and legitimate rights.

Al-Sahhaf added: However, if some intend to exercise the policy of compulsion, coercion, and violation of rights and sovereignty, Iraq will not make concessions or compromise over issues pertaining to the defense of its sovereignty and legitimate rights.

In his letter, al-Sahhaf said: The United States and Britain are continuing their threats to commit a military aggression on Iraq.

Affirming Iraq's right to defend its principles, Al-Sahhaf said: If such aggression takes place, Iraq will respond in accordance with its rights of legitimate self-defense.

The following is the text of the foreign minister's letter to the president of the UN Security Council presented by Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations:

Your Excellency Yoshio Hatano, president of the Security Council, New York:

Your Excellency: Iraq expresses its extreme regret over the unobjective statement issued yesterday [as received] by the Security Council.

It has become very clear over the past days that the U.S. Administration and Britain in particular are seeking to reshuffle the cards.

After the world discovered the falsity of the U.S. claim that imposing a ban on Iraqi flights south of the 32d parallel is a resolution issued by the United Nations, while this resolution is a unilateral one that violates Iraqi sovereignty and seeks to interfere in Iraqi domestic affairs and partition Iraq; and after it became clear that the United States and Britain are trying to commit a new aggression against Iraq because it is exercising its natural right to sovereignty over its land and airspace, there have been fabricated and feverish attempts to cloud the situation and reshuffle the cards. These attempts seek to

make things look as if Iraq was violating Security Council resolutions or challenging the Security Council, as they claim.

Iraq has not violated Security Council resolutions and has no intention of challenging the Council. As for the property Iraq retrieved from Umm Qasr, it is Iraqi property and there is no argument about that. The retrieval process took place in a peaceful, organized manner, and the property includes nothing banned under Resolution 687. The clamor raised over this issue is fabricated and the situation was deliberately escalated by the United States and its allies, when the United States gave the Council incomplete information, exaggerating the objective noted above.

As for our request that the Special Commission stop using foreign planes, we have explained in our letter to the Council on 9 January 1993 that it was a temporary request. We also affirmed that we are serious about the need to use Iraqi rather than foreign planes used by the Special Commission.

On this issue, we would like to explain the following:

1. Everyone knows that the United States and Britain are continuing their threats to commit a military aggression on Iraq. If such aggression takes place, Iraq of course will respond in accordance with its right of legitimate self-defense. Such a situation will expose to danger the planes used by the United Nations and, therefore, the request to postpone the UN flights under these circumstances is a reasonable request emanating from a sense of responsibility.

Iraq does not understand why this issue has been tackled in such a way by the Council given that it is very clear and does not call for chagrin as reflected in the Council's statement.

2. Iraq has not understood the legal and logical basis on which the Council rejected the use of Iraqi planes. In the Council's unofficial consultations held on this issue yesterday, a number of Council members raised questions on this issue which were not clearly answered. How can Iraq's request that the United Nations use for its missions Iraqi planes instead of the foreign planes be construed as a challenge or rejection of the Council's resolution?

While voicing its utmost regret over this kind of cooperation [as received] which has no basis of logic or fairness, Iraq affirms that it does not wish to have problems with the Security Council and reiterates its desire for dialogue with the Council and with all those who are desirous of this dialogue to reach an understanding based on justice, fairness, and legitimate rights. However, if some intend to exercise the policy of compulsion, coercion, and violation of rights and sovereignty, Iraq will not make concessions or compromise over issues pertaining to the defense of its sovereignty and legitimate rights.

Please accept our due respects,

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi foreign minister

[Dated] Baghdad, 12 January 1993.

Al-Sahhaf Expects 'New Aggression at Any Moment'

JN1301092193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 20

[Report by Dina Zurba]

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Sahhaf has stressed: Iraq will answer—with its full potential—and defend the country and its sovereignty. Iraq was expecting, and is still expecting new aggression at any moment, and the latest Western escalation was only an opportunity to launch aggression against Iraq but we will not give them such a chance, and they know that such an aggression will not carry a simple price.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR yesterday he said: The criminal nature of Bush's administration has no limits. It is enough to look at the fact that they bombed Iraq with the equivalent of seven nuclear bombs during the last aggression to see an example of this nature. But this has not changed anything because Iraq is on its feet again, and is reconstructing.

The Iraqi minister, who arrived from Cairo yesterday on his way back to Baghdad after participating in the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, added: The reckless measures taken by Bush's administration during its final days seek to provoke Iraq and launch further aggression against it. The violations that the West claims have taken place are all lies. Early this month Iraq agreed, personally through me, with the head of the international observers General Dibuama, to retrieve Iraqi property from Umm Qasr naval base. This property was sliced from Iraq when the border demarcation was imposed. This was to take place within a short period not to go beyond 15 January 1993. It was decided that private sector transportation contractors, in addition to the Iraqi Navy, would carry out this task and retrieve the Iraqi property. The West then claimed that this was a violation to maintain tension.

Al-Sahhaf stressed that Iraq will continue to retrieve its property until 15 January and will seek an extension of this time frame. He said the West fabricated more propaganda against Iraq when it mentioned the Chinese missiles which were retrieved from the naval base. The fact is that these missiles were part of the equipment of the base, and these missiles are not banned because they have a range of less than 100 km.

On the subject of Iraqi missile batteries in the no-fly zone, al- Sahhaf said that these batteries will remain where they were before and during the ban on flights. Iraq has not withdrawn them because they are part of normal military arrangements. The Americans stressed that they can control these missiles and that the missiles cannot shoot down the U.S. F-16 warplanes. So why this

escalation then, especially since they admitted that the missiles have been in the area since the no-fly zone was established?

Meanwhile, al-Sahhaf said that the discussions at the Arab League's extraordinary ministerial session were reasonable within the current prevailing Arab atmosphere. He said Iraq was hoping that the Arab League Council would take more effective steps.

He added: We have presented the idea that the Arabs reserve their right to take the measures that secure the return of the deportees in case the Security Council fails to implement its resolutions, but the proposal was not adopted although a number of Arab countries supported it.

Calls Incursion Reports 'Disinformation'

JN1201210493 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Interivew with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by Maha al-Sha'ir in Amman on 12 January—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sahhaf] There is no Iraqi incursion in Kuwait. This is, I think, disinformation. It's a .... [changes thought] For sure, it's a distortion. What had happened exactly is that we agreed together with the UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission], with General Dibuama that we can evacuate all Iraqi properties in the naval base in Umm Qasr. You know, this naval base after they imposed the new demarcation line, now the big part of the naval base becomes on the other side of the line. And, according to this agreement between the Iraqi side and the UNIKOM, putting in mind that the UNIKOM they reported to their headquarters in New York, the evacuation of property was with the full consent of the UNIKOM and the United Nations.

[Al-Sha'ir] What do you think of the Security Council decision that they ask Iraq to bring back the goods they took from the warehouse?

[Al-Sahhaf] They haven't any legal ground to ask us that. They cannot take the right of the possession of Iraqi properties; they don't have the jurisdiction. But, if there is such a decision, it's really outrageous and it is for sure illegal.

Comments on Equipment Return

JN1201220593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2140 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Amman, 12 Jan (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has said that asking Iraq to return its property which it moved under an agreement with the United Nations is an unrealistic demand.

In a statement here tonight upon arrival from Cairo, where he attended the Arab League Council's meeting, al-Sahhaf said Iraq is entitled to this property and no one else other than Iraq has the right to claim their possession.

He reaffirmed taat the removal of this property was coordinated with General Dibuama, head of the UN observers team, who asked the Iraqi authorities to move them within a time frame not to exceed 15 January 1993.

The foreign minister accused the U.S. Administration and its allies of stirring up this issue in order to use it as another element that they can utilize to maintain the blockade against Iraq.

It is worth mentioning that 'Abd-al-Latif Qabaj, spokesman for the UN observers, has acknowledged that Iraq has a legitimate right to enter the demilitarized zone between al-Basrah and Kuwait in accordance with an authorization by the UN Security Council allowing Iraq to collect all civilian equipment belonging to it. He asserted that the Iraqis have indeed collected civilian material, and not military equipment as claimed by the United States.

U.S. Criticized for 'Stirring Up Troubles'

JN1301131193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has affirmed that fabricating lies against Iraq and stirring up troubles with it is part of an interconnected, multipurpose process that has persisted in spite of the positive cooperation Iraq has shown toward UN resolutions.

In an article today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: No sooner a case is closed than another is born in accordance with a malicious aggressive program aimed at keeping Iraq within a circle of accusations.

The paper adds that the aim behind all of this is to totally exhaust and destroy Iraq and drive it to surrender to the will of aggressors. This is clear in the overbearing, suspect attitude shown toward Iraq and the fact that Iraq has received no positive response despite its implementation of UN resolutions.

The paper notes that less than two weeks before he leaves office, criminal Bush has fabricated several issues all at once so to undertake a new aggressive adventure, maintain the blockade, and leave the new U.S. Administration a legacy of crises which might take a very long time to resolve.

The first of these crises, the paper adds, concerns our air defenses in the southern region of Iraq and the attempt to fetter them by claiming that the 32d parallel is created in accordance with a UN resolution. A second problem concerns an attempt to obstruct the implementation of an Iraqi decision on the transportation of inspection teams by Iraqi planes and the clamor over retrieving Iraqi property in the demilitarized zone.

The paper adds: All these incidents were accompanied by distorted, unjust statements and resolutions by the United Nations and the Security Council to justify the embargo and prolong the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The paper affirms that these false claims which Bush is trying to peddle have very clear dimensions. The international observers on the southern border know this better than others.

The paper adds that retrieving Iraqi property was originally sanctioned by the head of the observer team, who set a two-week deadline for this operation. Iraq consequently met its commitments through civilian workers.

The paper says that the last Security Council statement regarding a so-called "Iraqi incursion" is full of lies and fallacies, dictated by the United States, and very far from the stark truth.

It adds that the statement further complicates rather then redresses the situation, especially since it coincides with the crisis fabricated by Bush against Iraq. The statement also serves Bush's malicious intentions.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq will remain immune to enemy schemes and imperialist plots against its great people.

Sources Report Iraqi Missiles in Exclusion Zone

AU1201164293 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Paris, Jan 12 (AFP)—The Western allies have located anti-aircraft missiles in an exclusion zone imposed in the north of Iraq after the Gulf War to protect Kurds there, French military sources said Tuesday.

The deployment of the missiles had been observed by several allied forces, including those of the United States and France, the sources said.

Saddam Meets al-Karkh, al-Rusafah Commands 12 Jan

JN1301084793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Comrade leader Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, may God protect him, yesterday met with the al-Karkh and al-Rasafah commands of the Baghdad organizations.

The meeting was attended by comrades Sa'di Mahdi Salih and 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, members of the Iraq Command.

Defense Minister Notes Army's 'High Morale'

JN1301085793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and defense minister, today visited Dhi Qar Governorate. He met with Dhi Qar Governor Tahir Jamil Habbush and the comrade secretary and members of the Dhi Qar branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He also met with the department heads and officials in the governorate.

The fighter defense minister got acquainted with the activities of the comrades at the party organization in the governorate and their genuine interaction with citizens to serve them and provide permanent security and stability for them.

Fighter Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid said that serving the Iraqis is a great honor, because our militant people have chosen the path of freedom and sacrificed their pure blood for it. This is our fate for which we praise God, he said. He added: What terrified our enemies in spite of their continued plots against our people is the absolute faith and interaction between our steadfast people and the leader of our faithful march of struggle, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him.

The fighter defense minister went on to say: After their failure, our enemies started looking for exposed, false pretexts. This reflects their bankruptcy and defeat and desperate attempt to undermine our giant revolution and the will of our people, who have sworn to pursue jihad until victory, with God's help and the assistance of our good-intentioned people, primarily the stalwart men of our army, who fought one of the fiercest historic confrontations in the immortal Mother of Battles, which was waged by brave men as a continuation of the message of heavens borne by our great forefathers to uphold justice and fight injustice and aggression.

Fighter Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, also visited today the commands of the heroic Qutaybah Forces. He met with the staff brigadier general commander of the forces and his staff officers, as well as commanders of various formations, units, and services. He also met with the comrade secretary and members of the Qutaybah Military Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The fighter defense minister was reassured of the high morale and high psychological preparedness to face aggressive villains in defense of great Iraq and its unyielding nation, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

Afterward, Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, reviewed the current political and military situation, stressing the Iraqis' determination and resolve to defend their legitimate right to full national sovereignty over their land, waters, and skies.

He urged fighters to be patient and to have balanced judgment and appropriate reaction to deny all our failed enemies any opportunity, so that the banner of God is Great would always flutter high in the skies of great Iraq under the aegis of our struggler leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the staff brigadier general commander of the Qutaybah Forces gave a token

gift in the name of the fighters to the fighter defense minister. The gift was a rifle seized by the troops in one of their battles.

The meeting was attended by Dhi Qar Governor Tahir Jalil Habbush.

Briefed on Readiness of Citizens

JN1201200393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has visited steadfast al-Basrah Governorate. In the presence of Comrade Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al- Razzaq, official in charge of the Ba'th Party organizations in the governorates of al-Basrah and Dhi Qar, the defense minister met with al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud, the comrade secretary and members of the al-Basrah branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the heads of departments and officials in the governorate.

The defense minister was briefed by the governor and the conferees on the high level of readiness of al-Basrah citizens to defend our sanctities—land, skies, and water—and to confront the U.S. aggressors and their conspiratorial schemes against our people and their legitimate aspirations to a free, honorable life far from the threats and intimidation of criminal Bush and his bankrupt allies who are trying to delude the world public about what is really going on in an attempt to achieve their hateful aggressive objectives, which our lofty people will confront strongly and resolutely.

The defense minister explained the current political and military situation in light of Iraq's clear and frank position which denounces the flagrant U.S. interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and the fabricated crisis which was used as a cover to harm our people. The defense minister called on the comrades and citizens in al-Basrah to pool their efforts and direct them against the source of evil which is represented by the dying Bush and his defeated lackeys.

Opposition Reports Attacks Against Regime's Troops

NC1201192493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Groups of struggling popular troops last week carried out a mortar attack against dictator Saddam's positions in the Western part of al-'Adl district, in al-'Amarah marshes. Our sources affirm that the attackers inflicted heavy casualties among the regime's personnel. More than 15 persons were either killed or wounded and military vehicles, installations, and a quantity of ammunition were destroyed.

Another group from the Islamic resistance troops last week launched a lightning attack against the al-Hammar police station in al-Nasiriyah Governorate. Our sources confirm that the attack caused heavy damage to the station and left a number of the regime's personnel present in the station either killed or wounded. It is worth noting that the regime's security and intelligence agencies use this station as a base for their repression and surveillance activity against the inhabitants of the region.

As part of the these jihad operations, the Islamic resistance troops last week [word indistinct] a Chevrolet military vehicle travelling along the road linking between al-'Adl and al-Majarr districts in al-'Amarah Governorate. According to our sources, the operation resulted in the complete destruction of the vehicle and the killing of all those inside it, most of whom were officers. The same sources added that the regime, in a cowardice response to this operation, shelled the village of (al-Hashriyah) with heavy artillery, destroying a number of houses and inflicting casualties among the villagers.

Regime Opponents Attack Intelligence Center

LD1001114993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] A group of opponents of the Iraqi regime have attacked an intelligence center of Saddam's forces in al-Mawsil city, killing one person and injuring another two. The Radio of Revolutionary Iraq [Radio Eraq-e Enqelabi] announced this, adding: That center played a role in the murder, torture, and expulsion of the people of al-Mawsil.

Opposition Calls On Arabs To Prevent 'Disaster'

PM1201164693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Calls On Neighboring States To 'Prevent New Disaster' After Missile Crisis"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The opposition Unified Iraqi National Congress has held the Iraqi regime responsible for the new escalation in the region and urged the Iraqi Army to topple President Saddam Husayn. It also called on the Arab League and neighboring Arab and Islamic states "to prevent a new disaster" in Iraq as a result of the crisis of the missiles which the Western coalition has given Iraq an ultimatum to remove from the no-fly zone in southern Iraq (south of the 32d parallel).

The "National Congress" issued a statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has obtained, saying: "Saddam Husayn is continuing his provocative policy against the international community, exposing the Iraqi people to further threats, tension, and instability. And while he announced his acceptance of the Security Council resolutions, he is resorting to procrastination on various pretexts and for various motives which do not relieve him of the responsibility in any case. He embarked recently on a step which is completely unjustified; namely, setting up some missile launching pads—which

prompted the four major states (the United States, Britain, France, and Russia) to issue an ultimatum for their removal."

The statement went on: "This serious situation confronts the Unified Iraqi National Congress and the Iraqi national opposition with their responsibility. The Congress holds Saddam Husayn responsible for this escalation and for straining the atmosphere, just as he did in the Gulf crisis, which led to the forfeiting of national sovereignty and a threat to Iraq's security and the region's stability."

The statement urged the United Nations and the big five states "to protect the Iraqi people and not to punish them for Saddam Husayn's aggressive policy."

The statement stressed the implementation of Resolution 688 and the "endeavor to turn all Iraqi territory into a safe haven."

The statement called on the Arab League and "neighboring Arab and Islamic states to exert efforts to prevent the occurrence of a new disaster for our Iraqi people."

The statement urged the Iraqi Army to "contribute to getting rid of Saddam Husayn and putting an end to the policies of recklessness and adventure." It said that Saddam's remaining in power "will be the source of a permanent threat and a constant potential war."

Opposition Leader Interviewed on 'Provocations'

NC1301080193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, member of the Presidium Committee of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, in London, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Jundi] We would like to explain to the brother listeners that we talk with you now as you hold a meeting of the executive committee of the Unified Iraqi National Congress. The meeting began a few hours ago. What is the Iraqi opposition's stance and its view on the Iraqi infiltration of Kuwaiti territory?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] We started the meeting three hours ago. It is still in progress. We are scrutinizing this subject. We will give our opinion after we finish our study. We believe the subject is important and requires discussion and a position. This aggressive behavior might cause new problems, which the Iraqi people do not need. We pay great attention to this subject and we will reach an opinion, God willing, after a few hours.

[Al-Jundi] How does the Iraqi opposition view and analyze the Baghdad regime's behavior at this time, given that at first it refused to move the Iraqi missiles and then heeded the international ultimatum?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Saddam by nature maintains his aggressive behavior and continues to flex his muscles before the world to prove he is still alive and can oppose the major powers. He is trying to conceal the deteriorating situation at home and preoccupy the world. The economy, health, and social circumstances in Iraq are deteriorating. He imagines he can deal with this by his method and by preoccupying the people with provocative acts.

[Al-Jundi] Some observers note that Saddam wants to portray a certain image of himself on the international scene. And they expect Saddam Husayn to back down?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] How will he back down? He continues his provocations. I believe he cannot enter into combat or war with or commit clear aggression against neighbor Kuwait. His military position does not permit him to embark on such an operation.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe Saddam Husayn's actions are a signal to the international alliance?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] First, I believe he wants to flex his muscle before Bush in Bush's last days in office to show him he can stand, threaten, and act and that Bush can do nothing. He has a personal score to settle with Bush. Second, he is trying to conceal the deteriorating situation in Iraq. Third, he is threatening Kuwait as if to remind it that he still maintains his stand on it despite the support it receives from the United States and major states. Saddam thrives on these provocations, nothing more, nothing less, I imagine.

[Al-Jundi] Hasn't U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton announced he will not be lenient with Saddam Husayn if he tries to test the new U.S. Administration?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Saddam's current stand is to test the new administration to see whether or not it will act. Until now, he is not sure, I imagine. Although Bill Clinton has made himself clear, Saddam Husayn wants to test him further. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] How can the Iraqi opposition increase its effectiveness?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] We are contacting all Iraqi opposition factions in regional states, Europe, and at home to escalate the situation against Saddam and expose the Iraqi regime's repressive acts and the dangers of Saddam's current provocations. [passage omitted]

Rabin Wants Deportee Decision Held for Clinton

TA1301105793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Jan 92 p 5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay, Aharon Barne'a, and Yoram Binur]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin would prefer that the Security Council convene to debate the deportee issue only after the change of administration in the United States on 20 January. Rabin's main consideration is that it will be possible to implement additional steps on the deportees in the coming days, which will "decrease the tension" and soften the Security Council resolution.

The prime minister's position surprised the political establishment since his initial response was that it is preferential for Israel if the Security Council convenes in the coming days so that the Clinton administration is not involved in disputes with the United Nations over Israel in its first days in office.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet today in Paris with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleberger. [passage omitted]

Jewish-Arab Committee Protests Deportations

TA1301123693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpts] A group of representatives of international nongovernmental organizations led by Carla Natili of Italy which sought to enter south Lebanon via Rosh Haniqra this morning dispersed after the police prevented their entry. Natili said they intend to take further steps which would enable them to transfer food and medicines to the deportees. [passage omitted]

A Jewish-Arab committee for rescinding the deportation of the 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members set up a protest vigil in a tent opposite of the Prime Minister's Office. This committee includes Israeli Arab mayors, Arab Knesset members and various personages from the Israeli left. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports that the members of the committee said they will sleep in the tent until next Sunday, when they will hold a meeting to decide how to continue their struggle. This committee has already appealed to the UN secretary general, the Pope, and foreign diplomatic missions in Israel to return the deportees.

UN Envoy Leaves; Peres To Meet Butrus-Ghali

TA1201193793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan left Israel this evening after failing in his attempt to convince Israel's political echelons to return the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Gharekhan will meet UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali as early as tomorrow [13 January] in Paris, and will brief him on his findings.

Our correspondent says that Israel is currently considering additional gestures to reduce the threat of UN steps against Israel.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will also meet Butrus-Ghali tomorrow, and the two will try to find solutions which will prevent clashes with the United Nations, as Peres put it.

Our correspondent has also learned that the Red Cross is about to present Israel with a list of actions the organization believes necessary to improve the condition of the deportees, mainly from the medical aspect, following the survey its officials conducted in the deportee encampment on 10 January.

Tomorrow in Paris, Mr. Peres will sign on behalf of Israel the UN treaty of nonproliferation of chemical arms, which was drafted recently.

'Demonstration of Goodwill' Needed From Rabin

TA1201101193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "A Show of Force Will Not Help"]

[Text] The UN envoy who met with Yitzhaq Rabin was not satisfied with the cosmetic concessions proposed by the prime minister on the deportee affair, such as the extension of the period within which the deportees can file appeals or the return of the sick or those who were deported by mistake. The envoy stated that he had come to discuss the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799.

According to reports from Washington, President-elect Bill Clinton has refrained from scheduling an early visit for Prime Minister Rabin or setting a date for a meeting unless Rabin comes with constructive proposals for promoting the peace negotiations. Other reports from New York say that the U.S. representative at the Security Council has not promised to veto any resolution on sanctions against Israel for its failure to implement the previous Security Council resolutions. The final decision on this may also rest with the incoming President.

These are but a few of the signs indicating an erosion in Israel's political standing just as Jerusalem is preparing to face some tough political challenges. It appears that Rabin has decided to put the new U.S. Administration to an immediate test in order to gauge its future direction.

One cannot avoid the impression that this game of "Indian wrestling" is a bit dangerous and that it would be better to conduct a quiet dialogue rather than create an atmosphere of crisis.

There is no doubt that the Security Council's implementation of unilateral steps against Israel could harm the

peace process, because Israel's negotiating partners will eagerly anticipate its weakening. The perpetuation of the deportee crisis, however, together with the lack of any attempt to find a feasible way to reduce the level of tension, would also place the entire peace process at risk.

It is therefore difficult to understand the prime minister's decision not to permit the nine deportees expelled by mistake to return through the Zummarayya border checkpoint and the difficulties in hospitalizing the sick deportees in the Marj 'Uyun hospital or in expediting the operation of the appeal committees. A demonstration of goodwill could only improve Israel's standing in the eyes of the international community and the incoming U.S. Administration.

Israel cannot make progress toward a peace agreement by itself. It needs explicit U.S. support and a positive attitude by the European Community. But although Israel cannot make progress toward peace from a position of weakness, it also cannot push the United States into untenable positions on the sensitive issue of human rights.

A show of force against the United States, such as these intentional leaks to the media about the "location of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership in the United States," which are designed to embarrass the administration, may boomerang. Therefore, we must consider our future steps very carefully.

Rabin on Iran Destabilization Efforts, Peace Talks

AU1301090293 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2007 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Report on interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hans Benedict in English with superimposed German translation; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Benedict] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin views militant fundamentalism as a strategy by Iran to destabilize the Arab states from northern Africa to the Gulf.

[Rabin] Iran is using Islamic fundamentalism as a weapon to undermine moderate Arab regimes. We have observed this in Lebanon and in Egypt. The fundamentalists have already brought Sudan under their control. We expect similar developments in Algeria and Jordan. The movement is also having an impact on the Palestinians in the territories, and it is spreading in the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union. Iran is increasing its weapons arsenal. It is spending enormous sums in this area, particularly on the production of weapons of mass destruction and the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

[Benedict] Rabin and Clinton agree on this issue, but not so much on the policy toward the Palestinians.

[Rabin] Well, I hope and I believe that the Clinton Administration will support us. I hope that it will understand that Israel is ready to adopt painful compromises, like the ones I offered in the talks on the Golan Heights and on the Palestinian issue. A government that is ready to agree to such compromises must be in a position to protect the people of Israel against violence and terrorism. No government will agree to a solution that entails a loss of security.

[Benedict] Political scientists expect that a summit meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will take place once all peace details are settled.

[Rabin] I believe that an agreement with at least one Arab partner will be concluded in 1993.

[Benedict] Can you tell me with what Arab country?

[Rabin] No, I cannot.

Peres on Nonconventional Weapons, Iraq, Deportees

TA1301072693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by anchorman Shalom Qital "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Qital] Mr. Peres, what is the value of the Chemical Weapons Convention if the Arab countries will not be signing it?

[Peres] First, the treaty binds the countries which supply the materials for chemical weapons. In my opinion, chemical weapons are the most dangerous and readily available weapons in the Middle East. The treaty will go into effect in two years, and I believe that until then very strong pressure will be exerted on the Arab states. I also think Israel will come out of this looking better, as one of the countries which both initiated and signed this treaty.

[Qital] We have already publicized some of the comments you are slated to make at the signing ceremony. Among other things, you will say that once peace is established Israel will be ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

[Peres] This is indeed true. Look, there are no weapons available against nonconventional weapons. The only way to counter this type of weapon is by means of a policy meant to prevent its use and mainly its production. Look at what is happening today with the two superpowers which set the example on this issue. Currently they are in the process of destroying their weapons, because they have reached the conclusion that weapons of mass destruction do not constitute real weapons any more. I hope we can also attain in the Middle East a new situation of peace, understanding, dialogue and a policy which will prevent the proliferation and use of such weapons.

[Qital] There can always be an Iraq or an Iran which would not comply.

[Peres] This is true, but in that event Iraq and Iran would face both a global problem and a regional problem, not merely a problem with Israel.

[Qital] Speaking of Iraq, how do you analyze the present situation with the possibility of a renewed confrontation?

[Peres] I think that Saddam Husayn is making a supreme effort to annoy Mr. Bush, but I think he is playing with fire. I think that Saddam will push as far as he can until the last minute, but his timing might be off, and in this case he will be seriously whipped.

[Qital] Do you think there are any ramifications as far as Israel is concerned?

[Peres] Look, it is always preferable to be cautious, but I do not believe that Israel is in any imminent danger.

[Qital] Mr. Peres, you are travelling to Paris today. Among other things you will meet with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

[Peres] I will meet with Butrus-Ghali and several foreign ministers, among them U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Eagleburger and France's Mr. Dumas. We will discuss with all of them the important issues on the agenda.

[Qital] Is the most important issue that of the deportees?

[Peres] I think so.

[Qital] Do you see any chance for solving this problem?

[Peres] I do not want to make predictions. I will only say that I will be directed by two principles: Israel will not go back on its decision, because any Israeli capitulation would be a prize for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. I believe that most of the Palestinians and most of the Arabs are not interested in giving Hamas a prize. On the other hand, we are not interested in starting a confrontation with the UN. The UN and its members have changed, and our relations with this organization have also changed. We want to start the new relationship on the right foot.

[Qital] I am still wondering how we can accomplish the impossible: The UN wants us to return the deportees, whereas Israel is unwilling to comply.

[Peres] First, Israel is willing to return all the deportees. The argument concerns the timing.

[Qital] In two years.

[Peres] Some of them can return after nine months, whereas others in two years. Some of the deportees, those who were mistakenly deported, can return immediately. The difference between this deportation and others is that it is a deportation for a definite period of time. This deportation is not merely a punishment, it is also meant as a message to Hamas, namely that they have gone too far and that they have tried our patience to the limit. We will do everything possible so that this message is not weakened. For example, when the UN representative told me they have decided to act for the return of the deportees I said this does not run counter to our decision.

[Qital] Mr. Peres, thank you and bon voyage.

[Peres] Thank you.

Reports of Hamas Activity in U.S. 'Exaggerated'

TA1201150393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 93 p B1

[Article by Dani Rubinstein: "Going as Far as New Jersey"]

[Summary] "Last weekend's reports of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] headquarters in the United States allegedly leading the Israeli Muslim radicals' terrorist operations are quite exaggerated. One of the differences between the PLO and Hamas always has lain in the fact that PLO activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip received their instructions and financing from their leadership abroad, in Tunis, while radical Muslims carried out almost all their operations through local apparatuses."

"The exaggerated publicity attributed to Israeli defense sources possibly was designed to soften the stand of the United States, which is annoyed with the Israeli Government over the mass deportations" and to convey a message that the "radical zealots" enjoy unwarranted "freedom of action in the United States."

The Israeli defense establishment has been known to resort to "exaggerated reports" when it finds itself in distress.

"The recent report about the Hamas establishment in the United States, however, does contain a grain of truth." "Hamas is linked to and aided by Muslim Brotherhood groups in neighboring countries." Because the movement is persecuted in most of these countries, "some of its leaders and their operators fled to Western Europe and America, where they act openly with the aid of their brethren in Arab countries. There is nothing new in this."

"Circumstances may arise in the future in which exiled shaykhs, operating out of Western countries, will lead the radical Muslims of the Middle East, but this has not happened as yet. Although New Jersey is the residence of Egyptian Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who fled the Cairo government's wrath after disseminating tapes calling for the murder of foreign tourists in Egypt; and although Muslim publications, such as AL-HILAL AL-FALASTINI and FALASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH are published in London, all this is but marginal activity."

The Israeli administration's toughest problem lies in the fact that "the Muslim radicals operate educational institutions, such as the orphanage" and the Islamic College

in Hebron, which "the Israeli establishment helped establish 20 years ago" and which is now the basis of terrorist squads.

"The Israeli Administration should not be seen responsible for the rise of orthodox Muslims, however. In recent years, Islamic radicals have managed to increase their strength in Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, and Jordan, and they have seized power in Sudan."

"No Israeli method will avail against Hamas. Neither punishment nor deportations, arrests, closed schools and welfare offices nor attempts to block the transfer of funds from abroad." "Only Yasir 'Arafat and Faysal al-Husayni and the Palestinian left wing can face up to the rising Islamic power and recoup the sympathy of the masses. And this can happen when political negotiations acceptable to the PLO make progress."

More on Alleged Israeli-Syrian Peace Agreement

TA1201174193 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 12

[Text] Following secret rounds of talks between Syrian and Israeli figures in more than one European capital, and in the wake of mediation by Morocco, Egypt, and U.S. personalities, Israel and Syria reached a peace agreement. The agreement has been drafted and the two sides have exchanged its articles. It will be announced at the United Nations at the end of March 1993.

Those rounds were held in Geneva, Rome, and Paris as well as on the cease-fire line. A meeting between Israeli and Syrian officials was also held in Rabat in the presence of a Moroccan personality. At the beginning, messages were exchanged between the two sides through the Egyptian Government.

The agreement provides for Israel's withdrawal from most of the Golan Heights, with Israel keeping some of the positions for three years. Upon the announcement of the agreement, U.S. forces will be deployed on the Golan Heights to provide early warning stations. There will also be an exchange of ambassadors and an immediate normalization of relations between the two sides. The agreement calls for the stationing of a small Syrian police force in only one part of the Golan Heights, which in the agreement was divided into three parts. In the other two parts, even the carrying of personal weapons will be banned. As for the settlements, some of them will be converted into bases for the stationing of U.S. and international forces. Israel is to participate in these forces in addition to a Syrian unit.

Diplomatic circles say that the postponement of the agreement, which was achieved outside the negotiating table following secret rounds of talks, stems from Damascus' desire to provide a chance for practical success on the Palestinian front so that some steps will be taken toward resolving the Palestinian problem. If this does not materialize by the end of March, the agreement will be announced. This will be the second peace agreement between an Arab state and Israel, the first being between Egypt and Israel. Those circles expect a peace agreement between Amman and Tel Aviv in May 1993.

Committee Approves Ban Lift on Meeting With PLO

TA1201161793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee approved the proposal to rescind the prohibition on meetings with the PLO. The coalition is angry with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset Member Yosef 'Azran, who joined the opposition in approving three reservations to the amendment, but committee Chairman Dedi Zucker believes the reservations do not nullify the amendment. Dov Gilhar reports from the Knesset:

The bottom line is that the proposal to abolish the ban on meetings with the PLO was approved by the Knesset committee and will soon be presented to the plenum for second and third readings. The coalition is, however, angry with Rabbi 'Azran who voted with the opposition in favor of three reservations to the amendment passed by the committee. One, that meetings with extremist organizations, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Hizballah, and Islamic Jihad are still banned. Two, that public officials cannot hold any meetings without permission. Three, that the law is not implemented as long as the Shin Bet does not receive additional resources to supervise the meetings with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich Comments on Alleged Tax Offense

TA0901210893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Professor Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the delegation for talks with Syria and U.S. ambassador-designate, says that reports on tax offenses which he supposedly committed are intended to harm his performance in the peace negotiations. An announcement released by his attorney, Pinhas Rubin, states that Rabinovich himself initiated the appeal to the tax authorities two years after he closed an account he had overseas. This account included $26,000, his wages from work in overseas universities. Attorney Rubin says Prof. Rabinovich paid the full fine levied on this, 39,400 shekels, and that the payment of a fine has long been anchored in clear legislation.

Court Order Holding Up Rabinovich Appointment

TA1201144293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The High Court of Justice has issued an interim order calling for Professor Itamar Rabinovich not to take up his post as Israeli ambassador in the United States. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the order was issued by Justice Eliyahu Matza until

the court meets to discuss the request for an order nisi. The interim order was issued at the request of Tzomet Knesset Member Gonen Segev who appealed against the appointment claiming that the payment of the penalty fine by Rabinovich shows that he committed an offense, which was not known by the government when it approved his appointment.

Ukraine's President Kravchuk Continues Visit

Comments on Jewish Emigration

TA1201065793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk yesterday told the Israeli president that he will permit the bones of Rabbi Nahman to be brought to Israel from Breslau. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Kravchuk hinted that there was also room for some kind of a gesture regarding Ivan Demjanjuk, who is of Ukrainian origin. Gid'on Remez reports.

[Begin recording] [Remez] Leonid Kravchuk said that history gives us the basis to hope that the ties currently forming between our two countries will be ones of equality and partnership, so that both businessmen and statesmen from Israel will be able to participate in the creation of a democratic Ukraine. But has the history of our peoples not been characterized by very difficult periods? No, Kravchuk said. We must learn from the past only to extract that which is good and set aside the more bitter aspects of our mutual existence, which are today being exploited by various forces. There was no Ukrainian state then, and the Ukraine's policies were not decided in Kiev.

[Kravchuk speaks in Ukrainian, after which Remez translates and continues] Ukraine's policy regarding its Jewish community was also decided outside the country and was used to sow confrontation between our two peoples. The mutual violence and disrespect were outside provocations. Today Ukraine formulates its own policy, which is one of respect for all nations, including the Jews.

Incidentally, in when a national referendum was held, the Jews voted in favor of Ukrainian independence, and even today they are still making a tremendous contribution. The fact that some of them are leaving constitutes our loss, but we will not stand in their way, Kravchuk said, except for those isolated cases, as in every country, in which some people are prevented from emigrating for a limited period. Kravchuk was alluding to those who are prevented from emigrating because of their knowledge of state secrets.

Kravchuk anticipated our next question and said that many Ukrainian papers had now began writing about Ivan Demjanjuk. We told the Ukrainian president that we knew that there were demonstrations in Kiev against the Demjanjuk trial on the eve of Kravchuk's departure for Israel. Kravchuk said that the verdict should be based on accurate documentation, law, and justice and not a desire for vengeance. Yes, Demjanjuk is an Ukrainian, Kravchuk said. Yes, if he is proved guilty he must bear full responsibility.

[Kravchuk speaks in Ukrainian after which Remez translates and continues] Even if Demjanjuk is guilty, Kravchuk asserted, there is no need to judge the entire Ukrainian people by his actions. Nevertheless, he said, there are various documents which indicate the contrary. However, the court will decide, Kravchuk stressed, and I will not burden President Herzog with a request to pardon Demjanjuk. [end recording]

Views Ties, Nuclear Weapons

TA1201164693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was a special guest of the Knesset today. We do not want to wipe out history, he said in the Knesset. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

[Begin Gilhar recording] It is not every day that a foreign president makes a speech from the Knesset podium. The last one honored in such a way was Polish President Lech Walesa, and today it was Leonid Kravchuk. Lech Walesa called on the Jewish people to forgive Poland. Today, in the presence of Israel's president and prime minister, Kravchuk said in the Jewish state that the Ukrainian people do not want to wipe out the dark pages of history. Kravchuk said that we have to do the best we can to make sure history does not repeat itself. He quoted from Ze'ev Jabotinsky, who wrote 80 years ago that the Russian empire depends on the stand taken by the Ukrainians. The world must know, Kravchuk said, that we are an experienced and diligent nation. We have experienced the Chernobyl disaster and want to free ourselves from the nuclear weapons located on our soil, he said.

The Ukrainian president said that his country supports the peace process, based on the Madrid formula, but opposes the deportation of Palestinians to Lebanon. He said the expulsion could harm the peace process, and could lead to an escalation in violence in Judaea and Samaria. He added, however, that the Ukraine Republic sharply denounces violence. Those are some of the remarks made by Kravchuk in the Knesset. [end recording]

Signs Agreements

TA1201195793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] This evening Israel and Ukraine signed a series of cooperation agreements in the fields of agriculture, flight, culture, science, and technology. Our correspondent Ya'el Ben-Yehuda reports that the signing ceremony, held at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, was

attended by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar. The visiting president will conclude his visit in Israel tomorrow.

Eritrean Leader, Peres Comment on Relations

TA1201203393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpts] I hope to return to Israel in a few weeks on an official visit, the secretary general of the provisional government of Eritrea said today. He has been hospitalized in Israel, and the treatment he received here saved his life. Some 24 hours after he regained consciousness, the unexpected visitor met with Foreign Minister Peres, who said: We have gained the friendship of an important East African country. The efforts to save the life of the Eritrean leader were initially kept secret, and only today our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik and a television crew were allowed to talk to him.

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] Last Wednesday [6 January], late at night, a giant U.S. Galaxy plane landed in Israel on short notice. The small entourage which alighted from it was rushed to the Sheba Medical Center. Two men were on stretchers: The head of the Eritrean provisional government and his minister-designate for the interior. Government head Isayas Afewerki regained consciousness on 9 January, and his recovery is considered miraculous. Foreign Minister Peres came to visit him this morning. Israel attributes great importance to gaining the friendship of this man, and guarding it. [passage omitted with physician providing details of the illness and medical treatment, and history of Eritrea by correspondent]

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, did you receive any insight from the incoming prime minister about the expected relations between our countries?

[Peres] Yes, with regard to both Israel and the Red Sea.

[Sukenik] Can we assume that we will have, if not an ally, at least a friend in the region?

[Peres] Definitely a friend, and an important one at that.

[Sukenik] The fact that the heads of the underground, now on their way to taking power in Eritrea, have shown sympathy for the West, and Israel in particular, has caused rumors there about the death of the prime minister-designate.

[Afewerki, in English] Unfortunately, I am here on sick leave. I should have been here on a visit. I hope I'll make it in the coming few weeks, when I get back home and recover completely. [end recording]

No-Confidence Moves Planned Over Labor Finances

TA1101130093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpts] A report released by the state comptroller states that the Likud, Meretz, Tzomet, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and Moledet kept their accounting books in accordance with the State Comptroller's Office instructions and that their election expenditures were within the legal limits.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the other parties—Labor, NRP [National Religious Party], United Torah Jewry, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], Moda'i's New Liberal Party, Charlie Biton's movement, and Rabbi Eli'ezer Mizrahi's list—were censured for infractions of various clauses of the Political Parties Financing Law. [passage omitted]

The state comptroller has submitted an extremely harsh report concerning the parties' financial activities during the election period. Discussing Labor's finances, she states that some of its activities during the election campaign can be described as nothing other than purchasing power with money. The comptroller imposed a 775,000-shekel fine on Labor for what she calls the dubious agreement Labor made in a bid to ensure Charlie Biton's support and for illegally receiving funds from corporations. SHAS was fined 3 million shekels for receiving a 1.5-million shekel contribution from Labor in return for a pledge not to run in the Histadrut [Trade Federation] elections.

Referring to the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el, the state comptroller writes that by publishing incorrect data about their activities in the course of the election campaign, they deceived their electorate. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 11 January reports that "the Likud and Tzomet have decided to submit no-confidence motions against the government in view of the state comptroller's harsh report concerning party financing during the last election campaign. The heads of the two factions, Moshe Qatzav and Refa'el Eytan, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the report speaks of unprecedented political depravity focusing around Labor and SHAS."]

Abu-Jabir Returns From Cairo Session

JN1201184993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpts] We start off with the Palestinian expellees' issue discussed over the past two days by a ministerial session of the Arab League that concluded in Cairo this afternoon. [passage omitted]

On his return to Amman from Cairo, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu- Jabir spoke to our political affairs correspondent, calling the meeting significant.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Jabir] The meeting, I think, was necessary and turned out very well. This is because attendance was excellent, a good many Arab foreign ministers turned up for the meeting and their presence contributed in no small way to the adoption of the resolution by the Arab League.

[Correspondent] Do you see the resolution as an indication of a real interest in restoring Arab solidarity and common Arab action?

[Abu-Jabir] It is a step in this direction, I think. [end recording]

Italian Foreign Minister Colombo Visits

Talks With Abu-Jabir

JN1101205793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The Jordanian side, headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, and the Italian side, headed by Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo, held a round of official talks at the Foreign Ministry this evening. They reviewed latest developments in the region, the peace process, and on the Palestinian deportees. They also tackled bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in various areas.

At the end of the talks, the two sides signed an agreement to reschedule Jordan's debt to Italy due in 1992 and the first half of 1993. The debt amounts to $20 million. Under the agreement, the debt will be repaid after 20 years, including a 10-year grace period.

The agreement was signed for the Jordanian Government by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and for the Italian side by Foreign Minister Colombo. The round of talks was attended by Labor Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the delegation accompanying the Italian minister.

Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo arrived in Amman this afternoon on a one-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn. He will also hold talks with senior officials on bilateral relations and developments in the region in general.

In a statement to the press upon arrival, Colombo said that he was happy to visit to Jordan. He described Jordanian-Italian relations as very good in various areas. He said that Italy has been working for a long time to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the Palestine question in order to achieve peace in the region—the same goal Jordan is seeking to achieve. He stressed that his country will do what it can to resume bilateral peace negotiations between the Arab sides and Israel. He also hoped that the crisis of the deportation of Palestinian citizens would end.

Holds Talks With King, Premier

JN1101210293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo and his delegation at al-Nadwah Palace this evening. His majesty welcomed the guest minister and his delegation and explained regional issues, the challenges facing them, the dimensions of the democratic march in Jordan, and Jordan's achievements that have made it a distinguished example in the region.

During the meeting, talks centered on the peace process and the need to reach a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace, which can be accepted by future generations and which will give the Palestinians their right to self-determination on their national soil.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need of the region's peoples for democracy, protecting human rights, and expanding the base of popular participation and political pluralism. His majesty said that democracy can solve the problems of extremism, despair, and frustration in the region. Talks also dealt with bilateral relations based on traditional friendship and mutual confidence, as well as ways to bolster them in all areas.

The Italian foreign minister praised His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership. He also expressed, in his name and on behalf of the Italian Government, his deep appreciation of Jordan's democratic and cultural experience and hailed Jordan's participation in peacekeeping efforts in several parts of the world. The meeting was attended by Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, labor minister and acting foreign minister; and the Jordanian and Italian ambassadors in Rome and Amman.

His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir also received at the Prime Ministry this evening the Italian foreign minister in the presence of Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, labor minister and acting foreign minister; the Jordanian and Italian ambassadors from Rome and Amman; and the delegation accompanying the guest minister.

At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the prime minister welcomed the guest minister and voiced, in the name of the Jordanian Government, his appreciation for

Italy's positive and constructive position toward efforts to realize development and progress in Jordan.

They also discussed relations between the two countries and ways of bolstering them in light of developments pertaining to applying the European unity as of the beginning of this year, as well as Italy's important role in the economy of the European continent and the Mediterranean basin.

Predeparture Remarks

JN1201201093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] At a news conference he held in Amman before proceeding to Lebanon, the second stop on his regional tour, Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo called his talks in Amman successful.

Colombo's talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, which he also described as positive, underlined a common keenness to develop bilateral ties in all the political and economic spheres based on a a common understanding of regional issues.

The Italian minister stressed the importance of efforts being made to develop Jordanian-Italian relations. He lauded the democratic process in Jordan.

[Begin Colombo recording in Italian, fading into English translation] I have expressed to the Jordanian Government and to his majesty my appreciation of the efforts made in this country to consolidate the democratic process, and I think that it is only by true participation in itself that you can also reduce conflict. [end recording]

Mr. Colombo also talked about other issues, including the Middle East peace process, noting how important it is and that it is beset by numerous problems, which put it in a critical state.

[Begin Colombo recording in Italian, fading into English translation] There is a conviction that we must proceed with the negotiations, and I think that I can repeat to you what I have already told your colleagues before in repeating an expression used by his majesty when he has said and I am convinced that he is right about it. He said we are at the 11th hour. In other words, there isn't that much time. But it's not only a matter of time but it's more or less a matter of assessing the political moment which is now present. [end recording]

The Italian minister called the explusion of Palestnians by Israel an extremely dangerous episode, which if it persisted and was left unresolved, will have serious consequences.

[Begin Colombo recording in Italian, fading into English translation] This very serious episode has of course upset very much the climate, the situation that continues to be upsetting seems that it is going to deriorate the climate and this is something that also my counterparts agreed with me today and therefore there is the need to bring a solution to this problem as quickly as possible. [end recording]

Concludes Visit, Leaves for Beirut

JN1201072693 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo left Amman last night after a brief working visit and talks with his majesty the king, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir.

He told reporters that his talks underlined the two countries's keenness to develop bilateral, economic, and political cooperation. Colombo called for efforts to expedite the Middle East peace process and solve all the region's issues, particularly the crisis over the Palestinians expelled by Israel and their return home.

Colombo said before leaving for Beirut that his talks in Amman and his contacts with other parties to the Middle East peace process had underscored the interest to achieve a quick solution and seize the opportunity for this end. He said Italy would assist the parties to overcome impediments to progress in the peace negotiations.

King Husayn Visits Armed Forces Headquarters

JN0901163793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today visited the Armed Forces Headquarters. He was received by Staff Field Marshall Fathi Abu-Talib, chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the chief of the Royal Ground Troops; assistants to the chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and the inspector general.

His majesty the supreme commander met with the chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for some time to discuss issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

Journalists Criticize Press, Publications Law

JN0901132093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 93 p 3

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—While the Minister of Information Mahmud al-Sharif defended the new press and publications' law in a seminar held at the Arab Forum Wednesday, journalists privately expressed hopes that the Upper House of Parliament would reject what they see as an infringement upon their fundamental rights.

Mr. al-Sharif questioned the journalists' reasons for attacking the law. "The law is considered as good: it gives equal consideration to liberty and responsibility," he said. Among others, protests were voiced by an AL-RA'Y newspaper journalist who pointed out that journalists have said that they are dissatisfied with the new law on several occasions, such as the demonstration

held outside parliament in which more than 50 journalists submitted a memorandum to many deputies and to the Lower House's speakers (Aug. 24). "The promise by some of the deputies to review certain articles in the law was not fulfilled," the journalist said.

"This law is extremely unjust, and if the new law was under effect now you would have had the authority to put me in prison," the journalist said.

Mahmud al-Kayid, chief editor of AL-RA'Y, also registered his dissatisfaction with the new law. He criticised the restrictions imposed on the newspapers' chief editors in particular Article 13 which says that the chief editor must not exercise any other job and that he must be registered in the journalists association.

"There may be some financial or technical reasons that would oblige the chief editor to look for another job," Mr al-Kayid said. "How can the law impose on the chief editor to exercise or not any other job inside or outside the paper?" He asked. He also criticised Article 16 which states that the chief editor must have a university degree and 'have sufficient experience as evaluated by the minister.'

Article 40, which bans any publication from publishing news that infringes upon the armed forces, and Article 42 which bans any newspaper from publishing courts' sessions were also attacked.

"Where did this come from?" asked Mr. al-Kayid, "in all parts of the world, there is publication of the court's proceedings. Why didn't they say that any news item or comment that may influence the investigation procedures is prohibited," he said.

"Maintaining the liberty of the press is one of the pillars of democracy" argued Deputy Salim al-Zu'bi, the president of the judicial committee at the Lower House of Parliament.

He said that he supported journalists in their rejection to Article 5 which states that every journalist, press agency, and editor must reveal their sources in front of the judicial authority.

"I think that it is one fundamental right of journalists to register their complaints concerning this article," Mr. al-Zu'bi said. "I totally agree that they have the right not to reveal their source of information; however, it was the suggestion of some deputies and it was their endorsement."

Mr. al-Zu'bi also pointed to problems with Article 8; Art. 8 prohibits any publication to print news item, that contradict the principles of freedom, national responsibility and human rights.

"This combines certain terms and expressions that have different interpretations from one person to another," said Mr. al-Zu'bi.

Army Said Blocking Supplies, 'Lifeline' To Deportees

NC1201133193 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Jan 12 (AFP)—The Lebanese Army is blocking smuggled supplies from reaching more than 400 Palestinian deportees, cutting off their only lifeline, a Palestinian spokesman said Tuesday [12 January].

The Army deployed 50 soldiers around the nearby village of Libbaya on Monday night, cutting off the camp's source of food, clothes and fuel.

"The Lebanese Army is preventing the arrival of the little help that the villagers bring us and stopped a dozen deportees from entering Libbaya to buy some supplies," 'Aziz Duwayk said.

Israel and Lebanon have banned aid from reaching the deportees, who have been kept going by supplies smuggled to them by villagers.

"We virtually only have potatoes and rice left," Duwayk said.

The Palestinians have been stranded in no man's land here for almost a month after being expelled by Israel for alleged involvement with radical Islamic groups.

Deportees Urge Arabs 'To Intensify Pressure' on Israel

NC1101160793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Marj al-Zuhur, South Lebanon, 11 Jan (MENA)—The Palestinian deportees are urging the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo and the Dakar meeting in Senegal to intensify pressure on the Israeli authorities to rescind their decision to deport 415 Palestinians from their homeland.

In an appeal to the Arab foreign ministers meeting that starts in Cairo today and to the Dakar meeting, the Palestinian deportees called for a courageous and firm stand and urged them to demand that the United Nations apply strong and severe sanctions against Israel if it insists on not implementing Resolution 799.

This appeal came in a news conference held this afternoon by the deportees and read by their official spokesman, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, in which he calls the deportation decision a plot against Islam and incompatible with all international charters.

Deportee Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Duwayk condemned the U.S. stand because it has not sought to implement the resolution of international legitimacy, as has been the case in many other parts of the world. He said that Israel would not have taken this stand had it not been assured beforehand of the supportive U.S. stand.

Dr. Duwayk appealed to the Arab foreign ministers and to the Islamic delegations to the Dakar meeting to take a positive stand on the issue and prove their Islamic and Arab affiliation against the Israeli stand, which aims to subjugate the region.

Another deportee, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, said: Our stand is one of patience so as to expose the injustice of the world order and the law of the jungle that governs humanity. He underlined the deportees' difficult living conditions, which brings shame and disgrace on world civilization. [passage omitted]

Israel Reportedly Reinforces Zummarayya Position

NC1301072793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Nothing has changed in the situation of the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur. They have been preparing their tents in case of new storms.

The Israeli occupation forces reinforced their position at the Zummarayya crossing with fresh troops and vehicles and set up fortifications and ramparts.

According to reports from western al-Biqa', the Lebanese Army has established roadblocks to prevent residents of neighboring villages from taking supplies to the deportees.

Deportees' spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi and Islamic Jihad spokesman Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami commented on reports that an American mission might arrive at the camp. They see this as an attempt to dilute the issue, because the Americans know the deportees' sufferings and must pressure Israel to send them home.

Islamic Resistance Reports Attacks in Security Strip

NC1201132093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Israeli artillery fired a number of shells at Iqlim al-Tuffah at noon today. The Israeli forces used large-caliber machine guns to rake the Wadi al-Suluqi area. The occupation forces also shelled the al-Wadi al-Akhdar area, the hills of 'Arab Salim, and the outskirts of Kafr Rumman from their positions in al-Zaffatah at 1200 today.

The occupation forces last night shelled the outskirts of Qabrikha from their positions in Hula.

At about 1130 today, Israeli warplanes flew at low altitude over Tyre.

Security sources in Marj 'Uyun said that two bombs exploded simultaneously at noon today as an Israeli patrol was passing through al-Mansurah, near Marj 'Uyun, where the headquarters of the general command of the Israeli forces is located. The sources added that the occupation forces rushed reinforcements and cordoned off the area.

[Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 12 January adds: "The Islamic Resistance announced the detonation of an explosive device which targeted a mechanized patrol of the Israeli occupation troops as it passed along the al-Jurmuq-al-Rayhan road in Jazzin district. An Islamic Resistance statement said that the detonation of the explosive device, on the birthday of Imam 'Ali [Prophet Muhammad's cousin], had destroyed a vehicle and killed or wounded those manning it.

["The occupation troops' large-caliber artillery was used to shell the village of al-Luwayzah, the 'Ali Tahir woods, and the outskirts of Habbush and Kafr Rumman villages."]

Birri, Italy's Colombo Discuss Aid Projects

NC1201192393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo met this afternoon with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. He will wind up his tour with a visit to President Ilyas al-Hirawi at around 2000 and will give a news conference later on his visit to Lebanon.

Concerning Speaker Birri's meeting with the Italian foreign minister this evening, Birri's sources say that discussions focused on the deportee issue and the dangers arising from Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians to the Israeli-occupied Lebanese territories. The sources added that the Italian minister was understanding and demonstrated his country's support for the Lebanese stand. The sources said discussion also dealt with the importance of initiating the implementation of projects linked with Italian aid, especially the power station in al-Zahrani area.

Minister Meets With Buwayz

NC1201151693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo held his first meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at 1130 today. Following the talks, the two ministers signed a declaration of intent for bilateral cultural and technical cooperation.

After the meeting, Colombo said they signed this document and it will be enforced. He described this step as very important for promoting and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Asked whether he has any proposals for solving the deportees issue after the international community's failure to do so, Colombo said: Even if the deportation took place as a result of the murder of an Israeli soldier, the issue has become very serious and has changed the atmosphere at the peace talks. Its solution demands some time. He added that the deportees issue must not affect the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Minister Buwayz said: Our discussions dealt with a number of issues, including political ones. We briefed his excellency the minister on the peace talks and the deportees issue. We also exchanged views on ways for the EC to play a more active role in Middle Eastern affairs. We also signed a number of documents regarding bilateral cooperation in the cultural and technical fields. [passage omitted]

Signs Aid Agreement

NC1301081393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Jan 93

[All numbers as heard]

[Text] Lebanon and Italy yesterday signed a protocol of intent. Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo explained that Italy's contribution to rebuilding Lebanon will be $450 million, $90 million of which will go toward rehabilitating the electricity network and development, $150 million to the electricity sector [as heard], and $200 million to projects to be specified by the Lebanese Government, including water, health, the environment, communications, and other sectors.

The Italian foreign minister left Beirut last night at the end of a visit during which he met senior political and spiritual leaders.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1201203893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo left Lebanon at approximately 2100 today following meetings tonight with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Reiterates Position on Deportees, Unity

NC1201123393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has reaffirmed Lebanon's objection to the resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon and to receiving any one of them. He said: Our doors are closed. The state has made a decision. The state is the master of its decisions for the first time in 20 years. The deportees are the responsibility of the state which expelled them, not Lebanon. They said we are inhuman. Yes, we are when our independence and country are being violated. We almost destroyed our independence and identity for the sake of others. This is enough. We are in utmost need of cohesion among the Lebanese to save this country.

President al-Hirawi affirmed that the war in Lebanon has ended. Lebanon is an indivisible country. Lebanon, with every inch of its territory, belongs to the mother homeland, knowing that we are still suffering from the Israeli occupation in the south.

I would like to say frankly that Israel was ready to fan the flames in Lebanon because Lebanon was cited as an example by all countries, including Europe and the United States. They used to tell Israel to look at Lebanon and the coexistence inside it. This coexistence was not imported. The origin of religions is from the East. There are many families in Lebanon with several sects.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation from the World Lebanese Cultural League, President al-Hirawi said: We want Lebanon first and foremost to be united with all its people. We want the Lebanese citizen to be able to live wherever he wishes and to have legal rights on his land. However, the sovereignty of the law applies to all Lebanese, beginning with the president of the state and ending with the country's last official.

President al-Hirawi said: We have been accused repeatedly of being a terrorist state, a drug state, and so forth. You can see with your own eyes how far we have come, whether on the security level or on the level of that which we have been accused. We are a peaceful state. We do not want to declare war and have not declared war in the past on anyone. But we want what is rightfully ours, and this is sacred.

SLA Commander Lahd on Cooperation With Israel

NC1301094393 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has said: We are Lebanese in every sense of the word and hope that peace will one day be achieved between Lebanon and Israel. Gen. Lahd was speaking during a ceremony in Blida yesterday to inaugurate the town's coeducational primary school. He said the task of the SLA and the Israeli Army is not only to provide a military force, but to help develop the region in various fields.

Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, commander of the Israeli liaison unit in Lebanon, said the inauguration of the school is the greatest testimony to and symbol of the cooperation and coexistence between the border area and Israel. He said: We work together to maintain security in every area; our task will not end. We will fulfill all the necessary requirements in cooperation with the SLA to develop the area.

SLA Commander Gen. Lahd yesterday referred to the Palestinian deportees and said they cannot stay in the area they are in now, because of the weather and humanitarian reasons. He said he was ready to provide medical assistance to them if necessary. He called on the PLO to coordinate with the Arab states to find a suitable place for the deportees.

Deputy Prime Minister Leaves for Talks in Damascus

NC1201104493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr left this morning for Damascus to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi, and other Syrian officials.

President Receives Egypt's Mubarak on 13 Jan

JN1301124493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1100 today.

President Hafiz al-Asad led the party of people who received Mubarak upon his arrival at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf Says Nation Demands Peace 'on All Fronts'

JN1201201693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has asserted anew that Syria refuses to enter into a separate peace agreement with Israel or to make any concessions.

In an exclusive interview with the QATARI NEWS AGENCY today, al-'Allaf said: What Syria demands is a comprehensive and just peace on all fronts, and not an incomplete, partial, or phased peace.

He said Israel has failed to confirm its desire in, and seriousness about peace when Yitzhaq Shamir followed the policy of his predecessor Shamir and blocked all roads to peace.

In the interview, al-'Allaf urged the Arab countries to hold as much coordination and contact as possible to serve the cause of peace. He said this matter is not only of concern to the parties involved, but to all Arab states. He said he hopes the aspiration for peace would be strong and based on Arab solidarity.

He explained that Israel has taken great advantage of the Arab division and continued to defy and violate international legitimacy, thus wasting so much time in the peace process to no avail.

Asked about the multilateral talks, al-'Allaf said he regrets the fact that these talks are going against the Arab interest. He questioned the advantage of negotiating with Israel over issues related to regional cooperation while it continues to occupy, and refuses to withdraw from or relinquish the Arab territory. Al-'Allaf stressed the need to postpone the multilateral talks until a tangible, substantial progress is achieved in the bilaterals, so that the multilaterals can then start on the basis of a clear Israeli commitment in the bilaterals concerning the requirements of the peace process.

Al-'Allaf denied that Syria has allowed Syrian Jews to travel as a good gesture. He accused Israel of fabricating this issue, which is of no concern to it. He said Israel has no right to intervene in the affairs of Syrian citizens, regardless of their faith. He pointed out that in the first place, Syria has not banned the travel of any citizen, regardless of his or her faith. He said there were certain routine procedures concerning travel abroad, and these applied to all citizens. Now, that these measures have been lifted, citizens are free to leave and enter the country without any restrictions, he added.

Al-Shar' Reaffirms Need for Arab Stand on Deportees

JN1201204293 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Cairo this evening where he headed the Syrian Arab delegation to the Arab League's extraordinary session held at foreign ministers level to discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

The Arab League Council today ended its extraordinary session held at foreign ministers level over the past two days at the end of which it issued a resolution condemning Israel's crime of deporting hundreds of Palestinian citizens from the occupied territories. It called on the United Nations to implement the Geneva Conventions and compel Israel to return the Palestinian deportees.

The Arab League Council strongly condemned Israel for the crime of deporting more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories, thus violating the rules of international law, particularly the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The resolution warns against the momentous perils that this violation entails, not to mention the perils brought about by the Israeli policy of banishment and collective expulsion, whether on security and stability in the region, or on the ongoing peace process.

The resolution also condemns Israel's violation of Lebanon's sovereignty represented in the deportation of the Palestinian citizens to the occupied Lebanese territories. The resolution also reaffirms support for the Lebanese Government's decision in this respect. The resolution calls on the UN Security Council to compel Israel to immediately implement Resolution 799, and to apply the provisions mentioned in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. It also called on the international organization to seek an appropriate vehicle for enforcing the implementation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly through the formation of an international force to protect the citizens in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. The resolution also calls on the UN Security Council to urgently adopt the appropriate measures to provide the necessary relief to the Palestinian deportees via the occupied Palestinian territories. The resolution calls on the Arab League secretary general to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report to the council which decided to remain in session and which empowered the presidency of the session and the secretary general to invite the council for a meeting to discuss any important developments pertaining to the issue.

Faruq al-Shar' delivered a speech at the opening session of the Arab League foreign ministers meeting yesterday in which he affirmed the need to reach a unified Arab stand on the issue of the Palestinian deportees and that

Israel should bear the responsibility for this tragedy. Al-Shar' affirmed the need for the UN Security Council to meet another time to implement its Resolution 799 on the return of the Palestinian deportees to enhance its credibility and assume the responsibilities with which the UN Charter has entrusted it.

The foreign minister explained that there are Arab measures that could be discussed to substantiate our political will, particularly in light of Israel's scorn for the Arab stand. Al-Shar' called on the Arab countries to suspend the multilateral negotiations. He said that these negotiations serve Israel's interests and do not serve Arab interests. He explained that the purpose of the bilateral peace talks is to regain our occupied territories and our usurped rights and establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Faruq al-Shar' called for abiding by the Arab boycott of Israel, particularly in light of the current attempts to undermine this boycott, and since all the Arabs, now are asking the UN Security Council to impose measures on Israel in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. Al-Shar' affirmed the need to remain committed to the Arab boycott of Israel until the causes that have led to it are eliminated. The foreign minister wondered why the Arabs are asked to abide by any resolution issued by the UN Security Council, even if some of these resolutions harm the interests of the Arab and Muslim people.

Al-Shar' drew attention to the fact that Israel acts as if it is above the law and has nothing to do with international legitimacy. He added that Israel's noncompliance with the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 799 encourages mamy countries not to abide by the resolutions that the UN Security Council issues.

Concluding, Faruq al-Shar' called for holding a UN Security Council session to put in place a vehicle and set a deadline that will not exceed one month for the adoption of appropriate measures to implement Resolution 799.

Afghanistan

Afghan Vice President Dies in Peshawar

BK1301144893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 13 (AFP)—The body of Afghanistan's Vice President Mir Hamza, who died of a brain haemorrhage, was flown back to Kabul on Wednesday [13 January], official sources said.

Hamza, 40, who died late Tuesday was an active commander in the Afghan Islamic movement.

He was flown to the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar from Kabul in a military aircraft Monday after suffering a paralysis attack and was admitted to hospital.

Doctors said Hamza, who also had diabetes, remained unconscious throughout his stay. The paralysis affected his brain and he died of a haemorrhage, they said.

Hamza, a Pashtun from northern Parwan province, belonged to the Jami'at-e Eslami faction of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Sources said he was to be buried in his hometown.

Hekmatyar: 'We Will Never Fire Rockets on Kabul'

BK1301133693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Report by Terence White]

[Text] Charasiab, Afghanistan, Jan 13 (AFP)—Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of the main opposition mojahedin faction challenging the Islamic government in Kabul, said Wednesday [13 January] that he will not attack the capital.

"We will never fire rockets on Kabul. Not even a single bullet from our side will be fired on the capital," he told AFP.

Speaking in fluent English at his military headquarters at Charasiab, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Kabul, Hekmatyar did not promise peace, merely that his Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) mojahedin would not be responsible for a starting a fight.

"We are against any war that will hurt the local people, but that does not mean we will abstain from fighting if it is imposed on us," the soft-spoken Hezb leader stated.

He said that at any moment there was a possibility of fighting in Kabul, but that Hezb's arch-rivals and enemies Jami'at-e Eslami, to which Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud belongs, would be the instigators of this conflict.

"We feel that Jami'at has adopted a policy of belligerence. If there is war, they will be responsible for it," Hekmatyar said.

Along with several other opposition mojahedin leaders, Hekmatyar denounces the December 1992 election of Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani as illegal.

"We cannot accept this government. Rabbani was not elected, he just collected some of his colleagues and tried to impose himself on the Afghan people through the gathering called the Shura-ye Hal-wa-'Aqd [Resolution and Settlement Council]," Hekmatyar said.

For several days after Rabbani's inauguration ceremony, rockets were fired into Kabul, apparently targetted at the presidential palace and the interior and defence ministries, but Hekmatyar denied direct responsibility.

"It is not clear who fired these rockets. It may have been an action by some individuals," he said.

He said Hezb was now trying its best for any kind of cooperation in making a new government in Kabul. However two of his three demands to achieve an acceptable compromise with the government appeared unacceptable.

Hekmatyar wants Rabbani to resign and power to be transferred to the now defunct Leadership Council, representing the nine mojahedin factions, including Hezb, that ousted the communist government last year.

All prisoners on both sides should also be released.

Hezb claims Jami'at has detained more than 1,000 of its people, including Hekmatyar's son-in-law Homayun Jareer, a member of the commission for organising the shura, who was seized by Defence Ministry forces in Kabul early December.

Hekmatyar said however that he would accept the reinstatement of Rabbani as the country's president if the Leadership Council approved it.

To underscore the seriousness of his demands Hekmatyar has clamped down on free movement in and out of Kabul.

He has ordered a road blockade of government supply convoys and threatened to shoot down any aircraft attempting to use Kabul international airport.

"We want Rabbani to be a prisoner in his palace," he said.

The threat has stopped all civilian flights by the national flag carrier, Afghan Ariana Airlines, but inexplicably, several Afghan military flights have come and gone from Kabul.

One of these was the arrival from Peshawar earlier Wednesday of a plane carrying the body of Mir Hamsa, the present interim Afghan vice-president who died of a stroke Tuesday in Pakistan.

Hekmatyar has given no time limit for his three demands to be met, nor would the Pashtun leader hint at what action he would take if they are rejected.

He said: "Wait and see. If you are in Kabul, you will know my reaction."

"There is no ceasefire between us and the so-called government—not unless it is part of a broader agreement," Hekmatyar declared.

Kabul Attacked by Rockets

LD1301141693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Kabul City was subjected to rocket attack by the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar again today. A responsible security source told BAKHTAR's military section that as many as 19 Sakr-type rockets were fired on the residential areas of districts two, nine, and ten from a southeasterly direction. As a result one person was injured. He was quickly taken to the hospital and is under intensive treatment and care.

The rockets caused the destruction of state buildings and private residences. The responsible security source added that three rockets landed in and around one the offices of the UN. So far no report has been received about damages. The rockets were fired at a time when a prominent jehadi personality, the vice president of Afghanistan, was being buried and the mourners were asking God for peace and an end to rocket attacks.

Iranian Deputy Minister Borujerdi Ends Visit

LD1201141593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani attended a banquet given by our country's ambassador to Afghanistan at the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Kabul. This banquet was given at the end of a two-week trip to Afghanistan by our country's deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, Ala'eddin Borujerdi. Four ministers of the Government of Afghanistan also attended the banquet.

According to the Voice and Vision correspondent, Mr. Rabbani expressed hope at the ceremony that with the establishment of tranquillity and stability in Afghanistan, relations between Iran and Afghanistan may expand more than before.

Mr. Borujerdi, who is visiting Kabul in order to bring the views of the mojahedin leaders closer together, met with the following during his trip: Borhanoddin Rabbani, Pir Sayd Ahmad Gailani, Ayatollah Mohseni, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mazari, Ayatollah Fazel, the plenipotentiary representatives of Golboddin Hekmatyar, Mowlawi Yunus Khales, Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and several ministers and political representatives of Afghanistan. He talked to them about ways of solving political problems and eliminating differences between the mojahedin groups.

Mojahedin Urged To Keep Supply Routes Open

LD1201152993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Peace and Islamic Fraternity Front of Afghanistan has issued a statement that requests all mojahed [word indistinct] faithful and fighters of the path of righteousness and social justice not to take action to increase the pains and difficulties of the Kabul citizens stemming from the price rises and scarcity of basic materials.

The statement further says: The Peace and Islamic Fraternal Front respectfully asks all respected leaders of the formations, heroic commanders and mojahedin to show mercy on the pitiful living conditions of the Kabul citizens and on their mojahed brothers, by not closing the highways and communication lines for the traffic of supplies and transport of basic material. Thus they will avoid increasing the pain and difficulties of their brothers, and will gain for themselves the pleasure of Almighty God and blessing on the Day of Judgement.

* Hekmatyar, Dustam Seen Cooperating Near Kabul

93AS0349A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Dec 92 pp 1,4

[Article by Ahmad Movaffagh Zaydan in Peshawar: "Hekmatyar's Forces Deploying South of Kabul in Coordination with Dustam!"]

[Text] Forces of the Afghan Islamic Front led by Golboddin Hekmatyar have, in the last 48 hours, deployed in the area of the strategic fortress of Balahesar, south of Kabul, side-by-side with Uzbek militia forces led by General 'Abdul Rashid Dostam, which is seen as incontrovertible proof of the rapprochement between the two sides.

The party's forces also were deployed around (Tibah Mehrajan), opposite the fortress, and raised the party's green flags along the roads leading to the two sites, considered two of the most important strategic centers around the capital. The Afghans have a saying that "whoever controls Balahesar controls Kabul."

Several witness, travelers along parallel roads, noticed the deployment of the Hezb-e Eslami in the two areas. One Uzbek militia leader told AL-HAYAH recently that he had more than 1,600 troops, reinforced with nearly 50 pieces of equipment in that area.

Informed Afghan military sources told AL-HAYAH that most of the militia members deployed in the two areas follow the orders of engineer Nasim Mahdi, Dostam's deputy in the National Islamic Movement, the political wing of the militias, based in the northern city of Mazar-I-Sharif.

It is known that Mahdi is an Uzbek who was the military leader of the Hezb-i-Islami forces in Faryab Province before joining Dostam upon the fall of former President Najibollah's regime.

Sources in the Hezb-e Eslami contacted by AL-HAYAH indicated that the deployment of its forces in the two areas had come about with coordination with Mahdi's men.

On another front, sources in the Shi'ite Unity Party loyal to Tehran told AL-HAYAH that Mahdi met yesterday with party leader 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari in what appeared to be coordination of positions among parties opposed to temporary President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Facing this "dilemma," informed sources told AL-HAYAH that Rabbani understood his failure to gather a council of influential people to choose his successor and sent invitations to Supreme Command Council members and the mojahedin to attend "an emergency meeting to choose a new leader for the country." Inviting Dostam, who is not a member of Parliament, was an attempt to win his friendship in these circumstances.

Rabbani sent officials to Peshawar the day before yesterday to meet with Shaykh Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and persuade him to return to Kabul to take over the presidency of the government, as vice president. It is known that Hekmatyar and some mojahedin leaders nominated Mohammadi to succeed Rabbani. Sources in the Islamic Revolution Movement quoted Mohammadi as saying that he had set a basic condition for accepting: that the temporary president submit his resignation in writing and announce it via the media. In return, the Unity Party invited Hekmatyar, Dostam, and Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ood (one of Rabbani's most prominent supporters) to a meeting with party leader 'Abdol'Ali Mazari to decide the fate of the Afghani presidency. The invitation was made on the assumption that those leaders represent the major forces in the country. The head of the militias agreed to respond to the invitation.

Bangladesh

Garment Makers Likely To Fire Under-Age Workers

BK1001115893 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] Horrified by a forthcoming United States law that prohibits import of goods produced with child labour, garment manufacturers in Bangladesh contemplating to clean up low-age workers from their factories, reports UNITED NEWS of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has already cautioned its members of the dire consequences of employing children in export-oriented garment industries.

BGMEA has also set up a committee to constantly monitor the situation.

The law titled: "Child Labour Deterrence Act 1992" prescribes serious punitive measures against foreign industries using workers under the age of 15. Punishment might range up to elimination of US markets, for those industries.

According to the latest information, strong campaign is being carried out by the industrial and labor lobbies in the US Congress to let the law go through in the next Congress session. With Democrats coming into power, prospect of its passage has become brighter.

Media campaign to mobilize support in favour of the law is also reported. National Broadcasting Company (NBC), a leading American television network, has recently telecast a program focusing on the use and abuse of child labour in garment industry of Bangladesh.

"We are well aware of the impact of the ensuing US law and we are discouraging employment of children workers in the industry so that our industry do not feel crunch of it," said Mr. Mosharraf Hossain, the President of BGMEA.

Hossain and members of the garment community turned down the allegation of use of children in the country's garment industry.

Manufacturers claim that workers under the age of 15 may constitute maximum 5 per cent of the total 600,000 workforce in the industry. Statistics of non-government organizations say the figure is much higher.

"It's a false and motivated campaign against the country. The issue is being overplayed by vested quarters to harm a tremendous prospective export industry of Bangladesh" the BGMEA President said.

Observers in the business circle foresee an immediate retrenchment of under-age workers from the garment sector as the garment people in Bangladesh will hardly take any risk to be affected in the booming USA market by retaining any children workers.

About 52 per cent of export earnings from the garment sector come from the United States.

Garment manufacturers this time were found extremely cautious as there was several allegation in USA about Bangladesh's garment factories using and abusing child labor.

Although the US Government has recently dismissed a petition by AFL-CIO, the most powerful American labor union, asking discontinuation of GSP [generalized system of preferences] facility to Bangladesh in view of use of child labor in its garment industries, the country is under constant watch of the US Government.

An AFL-CIO representative was recently in Dhaka to monitor the latest situation about use of child labour in garment industry here.

A dozen of leading garment manufacturers did not rule out the possibility of retrenchment of children workers.

Cautious estimates say some 40,000 to 50,000 low-age workers would be driven out of the garments industry in such a probability, fueling serious social problem in urban areas.

U.S. Move To Embargo Garment Imports Protested

BK1301101393 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jan 93 p 10

[Text] National Garments Workers Association on Wednesday [6 January] strongly protested US move for imposing embargo on Bangladeshi garments on charge of using child labor and termed it a conspiracy to destroy the country's economy, reports UNITED NEWS of Bangladesh.

"The step is not designed to deter child abuse but to protect its (US) market from outside competition", said Farhad Mazhar, a labor-welfare activist, at a press conference.

The move at a time when the Bangladeshi garments is trying to make its room in international competition is certainly a "hoax" in the name of upholding child rights, he said, adding it was aimed at destroying the industrialization of Third World countries.

A proposed American law, "Child Labor Deterrence Act 1992", prescribes serious punitive measures against foreign industries using workers under the age of 15.

A strong campaign is being carried out by industrial and labor lobbies in US Congress to let the law go through in the next parliament session.

According to sources, about 52 per cent of Bangladesh's export earnings from the garment sector come from the United States.

Held at the National Press Club, the conference was also addressed, among others, by Amirul Haque Amir, General Secretary of the federation, Khorshed Alam, Farida Akhtar and Parul Begum.

Mazhar criticised the US move for what he said blocking the means of livelihood of thousands of working children in the name of child abuse.

The United States does never blame any exporting country for violating labour laws and ILO [International Labor Office] Convention, as by protecting the laws in those countries against the interest of toiling people, rich countries carry out their exploitation, he alleged.

Mazharobserved structural adjustment and other prescriptions by the World Bank and IMF turned Bangladesh into an import-based economy which, he said, the donors call the only way of economic development.

They are making the Third World countries markets for multinational corporations in the name of 'Open Market' while the developed countries pursuing market protection policy, he said.

The federation disclosed a figure of about 1.5 lakh underaged laborers working in the country.

US embargo will be a blow to them, Mazhar said and urged the government to formulate a comprehensive national policy for child labour security and socio-cultural development of the working children who have hardly any other means to live.

India

Reportage on Bombay, Gujarat Situation

Bombay Violence; MP Resigns

BK1201132893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Fresh incidents of arson and mob attacks have been reported from Bombay city and suburbs. Police fired at 12 places this morning. Curfew is still in force in 18 police station areas after a four-hour relaxation during the day. Western and central railways are running curtailed services in view of the continuing tension. Four more army columns have been pressed into service. Eleven companies of the Rapid Action Force are also patrolling the affected areas in the city.

Congress-I MP from Bombay, Mr. Sunil Dutt, has resigned from the Lok Sabha. Agency reports say that Mr. Sunil Dutt, in his resignation letter to the prime minister today, expressed his anguish over the deteriorating law and order situation. He said that his resignation is a self-imposed punishment for the inability to bring peace and solace in the lives of common people.

'Some' Iranians Affected

BK1201161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] A delegation of left parties today called on the prime minister and urged him to remove the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik, for failing to curb the week-long violence in Bombay. In a memorandum submitted to the prime minister, they also demanded handing over the state capital to the army to effectively control the situation.

The Janata Dal-A [Ajit Singh group] has expressed serious concern at the continuing riots in Bombay and Ahmedabad. In a press statement in New Delhi today,

the party general secretary, Mr. Sunil Shastri, demanded that the entire Bombay should be handed over to the army.

The government today assured that all possible steps have been taken to protect Iranian and other foreign nationals in riot-affected Bombay. A press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi said it was brought to the notice of the government that some Iranian nationals have also suffered in the disturbances in Bombay.

New Maharashtra Governor Appointed

BK1201162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. P.C. Alexander was sworn in as the governor of Maharashtra at Raj Bhavan [governor's house] in Bombay today. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the chief justice of the Bombay High Court, Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Mukherjee. Dr. Alexander succeeds Mr. C. Subramaniam who resigned recently.

Curfew Relaxed in Gujarat

BK1301035693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] In Gujarat, the indefinite curfew in Wasala, Paladi, and Fatehpura police chowki [circle] areas of Ahmedabad city is being relaxed for seven hours from 1000 hours today following improvement in the situation. According to police sources, barring sporadic incidents in Juhapura no major untoward incident has been reported during last night. Meanwhile, the chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, has said that the situation in Ahmedabad particularly the eastern parts of the city is improving and textile mills and factories have opened. Police patrolling in trouble-torn and sensitive areas of the city has been intensified. Combing operations with the help of army is continuing. Mr. Patel said that 14 columns of army, 34 companies of BSF [Border Security Force], CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], and state reserve police, and more than 5,000 home guards have been pressed into service to contain the violence in the city. The curfew has been relaxed in Jhalod town for four hours from 0500 hours today only for women.

Curfew Relaxed in 19 Bombay Areas

BK1301044893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay, curfew has been relaxed in 19 localities for six hours from 0600 hours this morning. Twenty-two police circles were brought under curfew yesterday including new areas of Malvani, Mindoshi, Pandnagar, Katkopar, and Dhiannagar in Andheri. Nehrunagar, Kherwari, and Kantivili will have night curfew from six in the evening. Twenty-seven army columns and several units of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], BSF [Border Security Force], and Rapid Action Force are helping the local administration in maintaining law and order in the city and the suburbs. Eight persons were killed yesterday in stabbing, firing and arson. About 3,000 residents of Pratikshah Nagar in central Bombay area of Anterp Hill were taken to safer places yesterday. The police had to fire 66 rounds to disperse the stone-throwing mob in that area.

In an appeal, over AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan [Indian television] yesterday, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said that the people should give up fear and apprehensions and come out to attend to their routine schedule. He said this would help pacify the prevailing tension in the city. Mr. Pawar also asked the administration to restore the public transport system to help bring normalcy.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, spoke to the newly-appointed Maharashtra Governor Mr. P.C. Alexander regarding the situation in Bombay city and the steps taken to bring it under control. He also spoke to General Kilkat, the GOC [General Officer Commanding] Western Command.

The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, now in Bombay apprised the prime minister of the measures taken to restore normalcy in the city.

Some eminent persons of Bombay, including Mr. J.R.D. Tata, sheriff of Bombay - Mr. Fakhruddin Kawakiwalla, Mr. Sham Benogal, Mr. Justice Chandra Chur, film star Dilip Kumar, Mr. Vijay Tanduker, Mr. Ram J. Malani, and Mr. Nani Palkiwalla, will undertake a fast at 10.30 a.m. today at Azad Maidan in Bombay to protest against the prevailing violence and devastation in the city and in suburbs.

Rao Meets With President

BK1301052093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narashima Rao, met the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashpati Bhavan [president house] yesterday shortly after the union cabinet reviewed the situation in riot-hit Bombay. The meeting lasted about 40 minutes.

Six-Hour Curfew Relaxation Allowed

BK1301125293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Bombay remained by and large peaceful today. The new governor, Dr. P.C. Alexander, visited the riot-affected areas accompanied by senior army and police officials. A six-hour curfew relaxation was given today from 0600 in the morning in 22 trouble-torn localities. Official sources told our correspondent that relief work has begun on a large scale with the help of voluntary organizations. The state government has set up around-the-clock monitoring cell to ensure adequate supply of essential commodities in the curfew-bound

areas. Fair price shops have been directed to supply ration to the riot-affected people even without ration cards.

At Ahmedabad in Gujarat, a seven-hour curfew relaxation was given during the day following improvement in the situation. People came out in large numbers for purchasing essential items. According to the police, no untoward incident has been reported since last night.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, is to visit Bombay soon. Mr. Narasimha Rao told a film delegation from Bombay, which met him in connection with the situation in the city, that he is in constant touch with the state government. Mr. Rao said he spoke to the state governor and General Kalkat today. They have assured him that stringent action is being taken to bring the situation under control. He said the situation in the city has shown improvement today and is likely to further improve by tomorrow.

Committee Denies Call for Republic Day Boycott

BK1201161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Several Congress-I MPs belonging to both houses of parliament have condemned the call given by the All India Babri Masjid [mosque] Action Committee [AIBMAC] to boycott the Republic Day celebrations. In a statement in New Delhi today, they termed the call as unpatriotic, tending to inflame communalist and separatist feelings. The MPs welcomed the stand taken by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board and many other Muslim intellectuals who have condemned the boycott call. The signatories include Syed Sibte Razi, Mr. Era Ambarasu, Mr. M. Camson, and Mr. S.S. Surjewala. The minister of state for civil supplies, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, has also criticized the call to boycott the Republic Day celebrations. He expressed the hope that the Muslim community will not be misled by such calls.

The AIBMAC has clarified that it had never given a call for boycotting the Republic Day. The convener of the committee, Mr. Jilani, said in Lucknow today that some newspapers have distorted the statement by the AIBMAC.

Congress-I Rejects BJP Call for Elections

BK1201124893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Congress-I has rejected the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] demand for a midterm poll. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in new Delhi today that the Narasimha Rao government was elected on the basis of the Congress-I manifesto which clearly stated that the Ayodhya issue should be solved through negotiations, failing which the issue should be referred to the court. He said the present government strictly followed the Congress-I manifesto.

START-II Agreement 'Welcome Development'

BK1201153593 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1517 GMT 12 Jan 93

["Press Statement"]

[Text] Conclusion of START-II treaty on reduction of strategic weapons between USA and Russia is a welcome development. START-II carries forward process undertaken with signing of START treaty in July 1991. We hope that START-II will make a further contribution in promoting confidence and consolidating climate of peace.

Conclusion of START-II negotiations in such a short time frame demonstrates that complicated political issues can be rapidly resolved with necessary political will.

START-II demonstrates that it is possible to halt and reverse nuclear arms race with a view to achieving nuclear disarmament. We hope that START-II treaty will be followed by commencement of multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament issues involving not only USA and Russia but all five declared nuclear weapon states. Such a move would be facilitated if all nuclear weapon states could agree to a universal freeze on future development and deployment of nuclear weapons.

In today's age, there is a compelling need for nuclear weapon states to re-examine doctrines of nuclear deterrence which have been used by them in past to justify expansion of their arsenals. We would urge all staes to commence negotiations for an agreement to prohibit use or threat to use of nuclear weapons.

A cooperative world order can only be based on nonproliferation and genuine disarmament arising out of multilateral agreement aimed at elimination of all nuclear weapons under international verification in a time-bound framework.

U.S. Envoy on Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorism

BK1301053693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The US ambassador to India, Mr. Thomas Pickering, said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States will take a serious turn if Islamabad continues to support terrorism in India. Talking to newsmen after addressing the Mysore University academic staff on platinum jubilee celebrations in Mysore yesterday, he said Washington has enough evidence about Islamabad-sponsored terrorism in India. He however hoped that the relations between New Delhi and Washington will go ahead in a constructive manner under the new administration.

Pakistan Said Training Muslim Youths in South

BK1301094193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 3 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] New Delhi—India is going to lodge a protest with Pakistan about 15 Tamil Muslim youths being trained by Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan in Colombo. Pakistani intention to have an ISI base in Tamil Nadu [TN] was detected by interception of wireless messages by Pakistani officials to two Muslim youths in the State. The Centre is keeping these messages as documentary evidence to lodge a complaint against Pakistan to the United States.

The Government has drafted a 15-page document to be sent to Washington on Pakistan role in abetting terrorism in the country. This document will be examined by the US state department. If it is cleared Pakistan will be included in the list of states sponsoring terrorist activities.

By December-end every year the counter-terronsm division of the United States finalises for submission to the US Congress a report titled "Patterns of global terrorism" .

This report which is submitted to the Congress in April of the following year, after the appoval by the President reviews the activities of various terrorist groups of the world. Evidence from government and private agencies of any State is collected. The report also recommends as to which states need to be brought in the list of state sponsors of international terrorism and whether any state previously included needs to be excluded from the list because of its giving up its policy of sponsoring and abetting insurgency in another country.

With the Centre issuing warnings to the State governments in southern India, it is enough to realise that Pakistan which had never tried to have a base in Tamil Nadu and Kerala is gradually establishing its contact with the minorities there.

The TN Director General of Police has been told that Union Home Ministry wants a special report on the activities of Pakistan in the State.

[Word indistinct] Indian High Commissioner in Colombo has also communicated his views to Tamil Nadu chief secretary.

Pakistani Agency Accused of Seizing Fishermen

BK1301092993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Ahmedabad—Come November and the war between fishermen of India and Pakistan for high quality prawns and pomfret, which have an international market, hots up in the sea off the Kutch coast. The rough Arabian Sea in the Jakhau area of India, quite close to Pakistan, becomes rougher. Fishermen as well as security personnel stray away into the limits of the other country, causing tension in the area.

About a fortnight back, fishing circles here claim, boats of the Marine Security Agency of Pakistan let loose a reign of terror on Indian fishermen in the Indian territory. Though official sources plead ignorance about such an incident—there is no official complaint—almost everyone sees the hand of the agency.

Fishermen claim that enraged over the Ayodhya incident agency personnel raided Indian waters and hauled up many of their colleagues. Following the incidents, many of these boatmen, who come from distant parts of the State, have started returning home, they claim. The Indian flag was also reportedly burnt by the agency men who held out a threat of blowing up the historic Dwarka temple.

Jakhau, known for its prawns, promfrets and lobsters and other high quality high protein fish, attracts fishermen from different parts of Saurashtra, neighbouring Pakistan and far away Taiwan. The production here last year was 38,000 MT [metric tons] and this season, it is likely to be many times more. The place is purely a hunting ground with season from September to February having peak period from November 1 to December 15.

In the season the area is swarmed by boats that ferry fish to processing houses in Okha, Veraval and other port towns of Gujarat. Around the middle of December, boatmen start drifting downward to newer hunting grounds. Many of these fishermen are from South Gujarat region and there are reports that majority of them have abandoned the bustling Okha port, following the incident.

In the State, the Fisheries Department looks after the interests of fishermen and takes up all disputes with Pakistan. Fisheries Minister Mohansinh Rathwa says that the reports in newspapers appear to be exaggerated. If it were a major incident, the Government would have been flooded with representations from fishermen as it happened in previous years. He is, however, awaiting a report from his officers in the area.

Home Minister C. D. Patel belongs to South Gujarat from where a good number of fishermen go to Jakhau every year. He says that he was unaware of largescale return of fishermen, following such an incident. He, though, admits that the problem of harassment has existed for the past few years, he said at times it took a long time to secure release of fishermen.

It is widely believed that there is no way to clearly demarcate the boundaries in the sea and because of the short distance between the two countries, fishermen tempted by lucrative high catches often stray into the territory of the other country. However, since this is common, the fishermen of the other country are released after meetings.

Government Warned About Iranian 'Suicide Squad'

BK1301101793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Jan 93 p 9

[Text] New Delhi—Interpol has warned India about a 30-strong Iranian suicide squad sneaking in to the country to strike at Hindu religious and political leaders as an aftermath of the Ayodhya demolition.

Following this message, the Government has tightened security of these leaders several of whom are under arrest. The Home Ministry has placed double ring security cordon around BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader L.K.Advani at the Mata Tila dak bungalow in UP [Uttar Pradesh] where he is being lodged now. Strict watch has been ordered at other places, according to official sources.

The security agencies have also been asked to keep strict vigil of the movement of Iranian groups in the country.

Agreement Reached With Spain To Strengthen Ties

BK1201163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] India and Spain have agreed to strengthen their economic, trade, and political relations. The two countries have also decided to expand their ties in commercial, cultural, consular, and tourism sectors. The matter came up for extensive discussion during the talks between the secretary general of the Spanish Foreign Office, Mr. Villar, and the foreign secretary, Mr. Dixit, in New Delhi yesterday and today. They exchanged views on giving greater content to bilateral ties in the context of the forthcoming visit of the Spanish prime minister, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, to India early next month. The discussions covered Russia, the central republics, India's neighbors, the role of NAM [Nonaligned Movement] in the post-Cold War era, and the destabilizing role played by religious fundamentalists and extremist nationalism. [as heard]

Ministry Wants South African Ties Restored

BK1301095393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 3 Jan 93 p 13

[Text] New Delhi—The Commerce Ministry has decided to seek the approval of Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) to re-establish trade relations with South Africa which were snapped shortly after the Independence.

The ministry's draft note for CCPA envisages delinking bilateral trade from the existing political and economic sanctions against this richest African country. It has also proposed establishment of shipping and air links with South Africa.

The note, which is being submitted to Ministries of External Affairs Civil Aviation and Surface Transport for their comments, also suggests opening up of a trade office in South Africa to facilitate issue of visas to its businessmen and tourists.

The Commerce Ministry has proposed sponsoring a Indian trade delegation to South Africa to discuss trade proposals.

The entire move has been initiated in the wake of removal of sanctions by several countries against South Africa following its decision to discard Apartheid and work towards the installation of multi-racial Government through the democratic elections which are likely to be held in early 1994.

The sanctions were imposed by the United Nations in the sixties in protest against South Africa s racial discrimination policy. Several countries are currently vying with one another to get slice of South Africa's $18-billion market .

Officials sources say that the idea of re-establishing trade ties has been mooted by taking into account the vast prospects of bilateral and third-party trade and to avoid the risk of becoming a late-comer to South Africa.

The Commerce Ministry has obviously left the issue of political and economic sanctions untouched as it primarily comes under the gambit of Ministry of External Affairs. It apparently feels that lifting of official sanctions can be done later depending upon the progress achieved by South Korea towards holding multi-racial elections.

The External Affairs Ministry recently decided to establish consular-level relations with South Africa after consulting African National Congress (AFC), which is spearheading the battle for smooth transition towards multiracial democratic Government.

The Ministry has also decided to set up a cultural centre in that country to promote people-to-people contacts.

Indian industry and trade associations have lately been highlighting the prospects of economic relations with South Africa. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and South Africa Foreign Trade Organisation (SAFTO) have already held preliminary discussions and planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

Some businessmen feel that South Africa can emerge as a gateway to exports to other African countries as it has excellent infrastructural facilities and a large international banking industry.

A recent study by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) says that India can export light engineering products such as hand tools, cycles, auto parts, castings and scientific instruments to S. Africa. It can also help that country set up vocational training institutes and promote black entrepreneurship. There also bright prospects for Indian professionals. Six hundred of them are already working in that country.

India can also earn substantial foreign exchange by attracting South African tourists South Africa, which is a leader in the field of mining, can not only supply minerals and metals including diamond, platinum and coal but also their technologies to India. Its expertise in the area of coal liquefication and gasification can also prove beneficial to India.

Though there are bright prospects of establishing joint ventures in both the countries, this area is currently hampered by South Africa's recent tightening of foreign exchange regulations to prevent flight of capital and the growing racial violence engineered by both White and Black hardliners.

New Delhi Protests ICO Ayodhya Pronouncements

BK1301125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] India has protested against the pronouncements of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] on the Ayodhya events. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that New Delhi has seen with regret the pronouncements of the ICO at its meeting in Dakar in Senegal on Monday [11 January]. He said though the events were unfortunate and regrettable, they were exclusively in India's internal jurisdiction. He said the Government of India needs neither advice nor exhortation on the protection of religious and human rights of its Muslim minority.

Four Killed, Two Injured in Haryana Bomb Blast

BK1301093493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] In Haryana, four persons were killed and two seriously injured when a bomb exploded outside a cinema house in Karnal this morning. The state director general of police told our Chandigarh correspondent that two persons died at the spot, while the other two succumbed to their injuries on the way to hospital. The injured persons have been admitted to Chandigarh Hospital. Further details are awaited.

Benefits of Government's Economic Reforms Queried

BK1301103593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Jan 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The Year of the Haves"]

[Text] The fall of 1991-92 in the per capita national income (discounted for inflation) will be reversed, the Government never tires of reassuring, in 1992-93. However, judging by industry's performance this year, it is far from certain if economic growth will rise markedly above last year's distressing low of two per cent. To that, industry's contribution was a modestly negative one. This year the list of industries that have caught the recessionary chill is growing by the day: The durable consumer goods industries, the engine of growth since the mid-eighties, may be exaggerating their difficulties. The two-month period preceding the Central budget is the wailing season. Even so, the fact remains industry, led by steel, is not exactly ticking. It is unlikely to provide the big push to national income in 1992-93. Though agriculture has fared well, outside the food grain sector, it is hardly slated to make good the shortfall in industry's contribution to national income growth.

The Government, however, insists that economic growth is on target; and asserts it will reach 3.5 per cent if not four per cent in 1992-93. The realisation of this prognosis is to be devoutly wished for. This will take the per capita income somewhat above the level of 1990-91. The issue is how well will the meagre income growth be shared? That is, will the poorer sections of society benefit from the modest per capita income growth? The vulnerable sections of society have suffered a decline in their real income (that is, net of inflation). Their cost of living, as measured by the official consumer price index for agricultural labour, soared by 19 per cent in January-October of 1992 on top of the steep rise by 17 per cent in January-October of 1991. The trickle-down from a rise in per capita income by one per cent or so will hardly arrest the continuing deprivation of the vast numbers struggling to survive.

What has the economy gained from import and credit liberalisations? A 3.5 per cent growth, if that. The withdrawal of import compression has burgeoned imports with but little positive impact on industrial production or exports. Where have all the additional bank credit and imports gone? The policies unleashed by the Government have whittled down the production system and geared the pattern of production to the domestic upmarket which is the only market with a drive. Consider how gold imports by NRIs have exceeded official expectations. Market-led growth is bypassing the production system: gold is preferred to steel; imports to domestic production; and consumption to creation of productive employment. Reportedly, the Government is now thinking of reducing import duties and excise taxes to rev up domestic demand. But it has no investment policy for generating incomes. Such short-term stimuli to growth will only accentuate the divide between the rich and the poor.

DRDO To Investigate Declining Values in Army

BK1101151693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 Dec 92 p 1

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] Army Headquarters has approached the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to undertake, on priority, studies to ascertain reasons for growing degradation of values, fall in discipline and integrity in the forces. It has also requested a study of changing psychological and behavioural patterns in the army, because of increased internal security duties.

To what can be termed as the first official acknowledgement of falling values in the Army, the DRDO's response, however, has been tardy. The Director General Infantry (DGI) has asked the Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), a wing of the DRDO to take up three projects concerning disciplinary values, integrity and natural integration (comprising caste, region and community aspects) of infantry soldiers.

The reason for such an initiative from the DGI is obvious, as infantry is both the largest arm and has been largely deployed for internal security (IS) duties. The artillery, armour and logistic services have only a supportive role to the infantry in IS duties.

In another move, to get to the bottom of declining values manifest amongst officers the Director General Military Training (DGMT) has sought DIPR assistance to find reasons for growing preference for services, like Army services corps and ordnance instead of active arms like infantry, artillery and armour by cadets undergoing pre-commission training at institutes like the Indian Military Academy Army Cadet College and Officers Training Academy. The project has been egged [on] by the Army's concern that though high moral values like serving the nation are exhorted at the academies, majority of young officers now see the service as just another means of earning. "The growing mercenary penchant is bound to have adverse affect on the Officer-Like-Qualities (OLQs) of potential leaders, expected to command men in war," observed an officer.

While the Army has accorded high priority for understanding the changing behavioural patterns within it, the DRDO is taking it easy. In a surprise move, through Ministry of Defence letter number 13736/33/RD/Pers-5 dated December 9, 1992, the DIPR is now headed hy a man with little knowledge or expertise of psychological matters, Dr W. Selvamurthy, the new DIPR boss is a physiologist, who also heads the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Science (DIPAS).

Thc DGI has asked the DIPR that psychological and behavioural patterns be studied seperately in the three groups available in the infantry. These are the pure units based on region, caste and religion, like Sikh Rajputs, Garhwalis units; fixed units where in a battalion some units have pure troops; and mixed units based on mixed composition of troops. These studies will be of immense value for commanders for better understanding and handling of their troops. In the long run these inputs will be utilised for an eventual transformation of the entire Army based on mixed composition, sources opined.

The unit commanders have been alive to the growing regional and religious affinities discernible both amongst officers and men since post-Blue Star days. This has hecn exacerbated by further slow political and religious indoctrination of troops through Mandal, pre and post-Ayodhya phases. Though the Army chief, General Rodrigues, has personally ensured that troops not be used for communal events like Ayodhya, repeated internal security duties are having its toll on the internal cohesion of the Army.

While the problem amongst officers is likely to remain dormant, it is the growing restiveness of troops, which is causing utmost concern to the Army top brass. The officers priority will remain his personal progress through professionalism and he is unlikely to openly manifest his parochial tendencies. In the case of troops only a fine balance between his welfare and unit discipline can snap their regional manifestation turning unsavoury.

For this reason strict instructions are periodically disseminated from higher headquarters to both ensure that jawans [soldiers] welfare is accorded top priority and a keen watch is kept over potential disciplinary cases. The frequency of sainik sammelans (occasions when troop can air grievances personally to commanding officers) has increased with more efforts to provide information to jawans, lest they succumb to propaganda.

Banned ISS Muslim Organization, Leader Described

BK0901132793 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 23 Dec 92 p1

[Text] Kollam. 23 Dec— After the Ayodhya events, three Hindu and two Muslim religious organizations were banned. Of the banned Muslim organizations, Islamic Seva Sangh [ISS] is the most significant.

Mynagappalli village is located 30 km from Kollam, the headquarters of Kollam District of Kerala. In this peaceful village the ISS was founded by Abdul Naseer Madani on 22 November 1990.

This organization was not so popular for 18 months after its inception. In April this year, there were widespread rumors in Kerala that the Babri mosque in Ayodhya had been demolished. At that time, the ISS indulged in violence in various parts of Kerala and thereby it came into the limelight. After that, the ISS leader Madani was regarded by the Muslims as God and the savior of the oppressed Muslims. Since then he has made rapid progress.

This organization was functioning in two asbestos-roofed rooms in a calm place amid coconut trees in Mynagappalli. It is hard to believe that an extremist organization [like the ISS] would have functioned at such a calm place. The organization leader, Madani, stayed there. For the past three years, an orphanage was also run there. This organization had a major role in the recent communal riots in Kerala. During these riots, Madani lost one of his legs in a bomb attack on 6 August.

After this, ISS branches were established at various places in Kerala. Its headquarters in Mynagappalli also started developing very fast. The construction of the headquarters with a new mosque, swimming pool, watch tower, Arabic college was carried out very rapidly in an

area of 3.5 acres of land. This work was assigned to a contractor from Tamil Nadu to be completed within 30 months.

When the ISS was progressing in such a rapid pace in Kerala, the central government imposed a ban on it on 10 December. Within a few hours after the promulgation of the ban order, the police decided to besiege its headquarters and arrest its leader, Madani. But Madani escaped before that. The police could arrest only 20 members of the Black Cat Commando force set up to protect Madani.

Later, the police searched Madani's chamber. They recovered a few condom packets, imported cosmetics, and soaps. During a search in another room, they seized a powerful imported metal detector, thousands of letters from Gulf countries, files, and a pistol. They also recovered two kg of explosives from a ditch near the toilet which was covered by cement slabs. In addition to this, the police also recovered half-burned letters and receipts for the acceptance of cash. A senior police officer said:

The ISS organization has grown rapidly within a short time. Malayali Muslims working in Gulf countries contributed to the rapid development of this organization, which was functioning in a small building. Some of them contributed cash directly and some sent drafts from Gulf countries.

But there is no evidence for any monetary assistance from Pakistani or any other foreign intelligence agencies. A large sum of money flowed in by way of contributions after Madani lost his leg last August. All the money has been deposited in two nationalized banks of Kollam under fictitious names. It is expected that more than 35 million rupees would have been deposited in these banks.

Moreover, the documents seized from Madani's room reveal the assets of ISS. The organization's entire assets are in the name of Madani's father Abdul Samad. Books of receipts for amounts ranging from 100 to several thousand rupees collected for the organization have been seized.

At the time of its banning, the ISS had 100,000 members on its rolls. Two thousand and six hundred [figure as received] branches were functioning all over Kerala. There was a plan to set up branches in the Gulf states as well. A circular was also seized from Madani's room, which notes training to be imparted to the members with board and lodging facilities at these 600 [figure as received] branches. Retired officers from the Central Reserve Police Force were recruited for training the members. The officers, who were paid 200 rupees a day, are absconding now. They are also being sought by the police. In the past few days, a large quantity of explosives was seized from the border areas of Tamil Nadu. In this connection, some ISS members have also been arrested. This gives rise to a suspicion that Madani would have been in possession of sophisticated arms. Now, with Madani, 19 people have gone underground. A special police task force has been formed to nab them. However, Madani holds a passport, which expires next year. Therefore, there is a rumor that he must have escaped to the Gulf countries.

Some of the letters seized from his room make shocking revelations. Madani had a close association with a cabinet member of the current Congress-I ministry in Kerala. This minister had written a letter to Madani on 27 April 1991, asking him to pray for his success in the last general elections. This letter is with the police now. This minister is very close to the state chief minister, Karunakaran. In addition to this, documents seized from Madani's room reveal his links with some legislators belonging to the Muslim League. Since July this year, police have registered 14 cases against Madani. But, they could not arrest him, as he has connections in political circles. It is to be noted that out of these 14 cases, some are against manhandling police officers.

Some of the letters seized from Madani's room reveal that he was regarded as God. One of the letters reads: I asked you to pray on my behalf for a male child. But, this time also I got a female child. So, please pray that I am blessed with a male child. A sum of 6,000 rupees was also enclosed with the letter. More over, regarding Madani as God, some people had asked him why he could not protect his leg during the bomb attack. Three love letters from a woman in Ernakulam have also been recovered. Letters which prove his links with the Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] have also been seized.

Madani helped Muslim youths from Kerala to get visas to Gulf countries. Special prayers were held at the ISS headquarters every Thursday, which were attended by affluent Muslims from Tamil Nadu. When police officers went to the ISS headquarters in Mynagappali in connection with the cases filed against Madani, they were sent in only after metal detector tests.

Nobody was allowed to pass through the road leading to the ISS headquarters in Mynagappalli at night after 2000. Non-Muslims were not allowed at all. Despite all this, if anybody ventured to go there, he was allowed only after interrogation by Madani's Black Cat Commandoes.

Madani, who became very popular within a short time after launching the movement, belongs to a mediocre family. His father is a teacher. Madani, 32, is the eldest of the seven in his family. He studied up to ninth standard in Mynagappalli. Thereafter, he learned Islamic theological studies in Kollam District in 1986. After graduating from there, he worked at Krishnapuram mosque on 1,000 rupees a month till 24 August 1989. Then, he married Shabbinshah Begum. Later, he divorced her on 17 June 1991. Madani has a girl through Shabbinshah Begum.

Two Muslim relgious leaders were killed by Hindu zealots in Kerala. At that time, Madani formed the ISS to counter the Hindu religious organization, RSS [Rashtriya Swayamseveak Sangh]. The ISS, which was

launched as a small organization, grew very rapidly within a short time through Muslim conservative teachings. This organization has been banned at the right time. Police officials also endorse the view that, otherwise, a crackdown similar to 'the Blue Star Operation' [launched to flush out Sikh terrorists from the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984] will have to be launched at the ISS headquarters within a year.

Iran

Deputy Minister on Relations With Gulf States

PM1301095293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jan 93 p 4

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Haj: "Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Tells AL-HAYAH: Gulf Security Depends on Its States' Agreement"]

[Excerpt] Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iranian deputy foreign minister for international affairs, has emphasized his country's care for the principles of good-neighborliness with its neighbors, saying that the Gulf region's security depends on agreement among the region's states.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH Zarif said that his country had not received a reply from the United Arab Emirates regarding its call for meetings to be held in Tehran to discuss the dispute over Abu Musa island.

He said that the recent resolution of the Saudi-Qatari dispute gave an optimistic impression that border disputes in the region can be resolved through dialogue. And he emphasized that relations among the region's states should be built on fixed rules stipulating nonuse of force, noninterference in others' affairs, respect for every state's national sovereignty, recognition of the treaties and agreements concluded among the region's states, and the affirmation that recognized international borders cannot be be altered.

He added that "despite some actions which might not help the understanding in the region, Iran continues to emphasize the principles of dialogue to discuss the 1971 agreement with al-Shariqah."

Asked about Egyptian accusations that Iran supports terrorism, he said: "Making allegations without providing evidence is of no value. Iran's relations with Islamic states should not be burdened with more than their real objectives, and the states leveling the accusation should resolve their domestic problems without raising external issues." [passage omitted]

Guards Corps Commander Visits DPRK, Comments

LD1201133893 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, Jan. 12, IRNA—Senior military officials from Iran and North Korea Monday [11 January] exchanged views on latest major regional and international developments especially those pertaining to the Persian Gulf and the Korean peninsula.

The talks were held between the visiting commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Reza'i, and Korean Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u.

The Korean official said that both Iran and Korea were two active members of the non-aligned movement in Asia which shared a joint stance against imperialism.

He also expressed hope that the visit by the high-ranking Iranian delegation to Korea would pave the way for further promotion of bilateral ties.

Reza'i, heading a delegation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, underlined effectiveness of contacts between leaders of the two countries.

He described Tehran-Pyongyang relations as "very good" under the present international circumstances and said the two countries could take new steps in bilateral cooperation.

Stressing that Iran was currently passing through its reconstruction era, the IRGC commander announced Tehran's readiness for having broad economic relations with Pyongyang.

He added that through such cooperation and given high potentials of the country, Iran could play a significant role on economic arena in the Persian Gulf region.

"U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf region as well as in the Korean peninsula is an indication to the U.S. animosity against the two nations," Reza'i added.

Koran Use Urged To Face Western 'Onslaught'

LD0901122693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The 12th Armed Forces nationwide memorization and recitation of the Holy Koran and the understanding of its meaning started this morning in Tehran in the presence of the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

According to a report by our correspondent, during this session—attended by the representative of the Vali-ye faqih [Ayatollah Khamene'i] in the ideological-political department of the Armed Forces and a group of military and law-enforcement officials—Nateq Nuri said that living with the Koran and the understanding of its meaning is one of the ways of confronting the western cultural onslaught. He stated: We must identify the reasons and factors that cause the young to move away from Koranic and Islamic culture so that, by eliminating them, we neutralize the enemies' efforts for subverting the community's culture.

Elaborating on the characteristics of western cultural onslaught, he pointed out: The young face the leading wave of this onslaught, and we must take up the offensive in facing any attack. The Majles speaker also noted the necessity for careful and all-embracing planning to confront the western cultural onslaught. [passage omitted]

Negotiations Best Resolution for Afghan Differences

LD1101150393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1054 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political experts believe that even though Mr Rabbani may have hurried in convening the Resolution and Settlement Council [Showra-ye Hai va Aqd]—thereby creating the grounds for certain groups' dissatisfaction—this, however, should not have led to renewed fighting in Kabul. The experience of recent months has shown that there is no military solution, especially since conflicting political groups enjoy approximately the same balance of forces. Therefore, unity and ideological cooperation based on Islamic principles is the only solution.

One of the important aspects of the recent developments in Afghanistan has been that during the past month, many of the bilateral and multilateral deals and pacts between the conflicting groups have fallen apart. These groups individually express their own views on the various problems facing that country. Another important point worth noting is this: The Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously trying to find a peaceful solution and contacts between the officials of Tehran and Kabul continue in this regard. Ala'eddin Borujerdi, the deputy foreign minister of our country, who is currently in the Afghan capital, has been following this same objective in his meetings with heads of rival political movements.

Currently Afghanistan is going through sensitive and fateful times. If the existing differences of views continue, the future of the country is vague. Difficulties such as economic problems, internal insecurity, and the crisis in the political leadership are seriously threatening the security and national interests of that country. It seems that the parties and groups must realistically face the existing situation in Afghanistan and not allow the resurgence of fighting in Kabul. Negotiations to achieve peace are the most suitable way to solve current problems. War and bloodshed will continue in Kabul until various demands are met, and this will benefit foreign powers. The leaders of the various parties are in a critical situation. Their political wisdom can pull Afghanistan away from the serious dangers facing it.

Deputies Call For Access to Comptroller's Reports

LD1201113693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] In today's open Majles session, the bill to change the name of Eastern Azerbaijan province, with its capital as Tabriz, to Central Azerbaijan province, and to establish an Eastern Azerbaijan province, with its capital as Ardabil, was given its first reading and its general provisions were approved with 152 votes in favor out of a total of 204 votes. The bill was referred to the relevant commission for examination.

According to our reporter, in today's session the bill to amend Clause 3 of Article 48 of the Majles' internal regulations was also submitted to the Majles with a single amendment. The amendment was not approved.

A letter from 136 deputies, addressed to the Majles speaker, was also read out. The signatories to the letter ask that consideration be given to the creation of facilities to strengthen the Majles commissions relating to the Comptroller's Office and to Article 90 [dealing with monitoring financial and administrative malpractice in governement institutions]. They also asked that, in addition to submitting written reports, the head of the country's Comptroller's Office should also present monthly reports to closed sessions of the Majles about the performance of government institutions.

Government To Continue New Monetary Policy

LD1101190093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The head of the plan and budget organization has announced that, as the result of implementing the new monetary policies—including the single rate for foreign currency—the country's account balance in the year 1372 [beginning March 1993] will improve by $4 billion in comparison to the year before.

Addressing a group of university professors, experts, and financial decision-makers of the country, Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani said that, in its economic policy directed toward reform of the price structure, the government will continue its deflationary policy because it seems that Iran's inflation is a monetary phenomena and must be solved through monetary policies.

He said to interpret the current trade situation in the country as a recession is irrational because the Iranian market today is a sellers' market. In other words, there is trade and exchange, but it is possible that there is less demand for domestic commodities. Recession is a situation where there is no demand for supply, while the better-quality items—mostly foreign—sell, the vice president explained.

He said the single rate for foreign currency was necessary in order to strengthen the economic structure of the

country and to improve the quality of domestic commodities. He said the government no longer wishes to continue irrational support of the domestic producer because supplying cheap foreign currency to production units is, in reality, taking away their working, creative, and competitive abilities.

The head of the plan and budget organization was participating in the monthly conference of the Institute for Monetary and Banking Research.

Referring to the criterion for assessing the country's foreign income from oil exports, he said, according to the policies of the Ministry of Oil, the country's oil production in year 1372 will reach 4 million barrels a day. On this basis, next year's budget bill predicts exports of 2.7 million barrels a day at a price of $17 [per barrel].

Debts to Germany Estimated at Least at $500 Million

AU1301104193 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 13 Jan 93 p 8

[Report by "dak": "The Tehran Regime Is Short of Foreign Currency"]

[Excerpt] Duesseldorf, 12 January—Even though the Iranian Government emphatically stresses that for quite some time it has had the restructuring process under control, which is supposed to turn the planned system, required by the war, into a free market economy, it has lost much of its credibility.

For the first time in several years the Central Bank has problems providing foreign currency to pay for imports. Arrears for letters of credit have risen to $2 to 3 billion since the summer. Those most affected are the three most important deliverers—the FRG, Japan, and Italy. In the first nine months of 1992, Iran imported goods worth $4.11 billion from Germany, compared with $4 billion for all of 1991. Payments in arrears are said to amount to between $500 million to $1 billion. The Islamic Republic owes Japan about $500 million. Both countries reject a bilateral rescheduling of the debts. [passage omitted]

Impacts of Currency Devaluation Discussed

NC1301131793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Government policy is to introduce a balanced rate of foreign exchange next year [year beginning 21 March 1993]. This policy is known as that of a single parity rate for foreign exchange or the official devaluation of the rial.

The weakening of the national currency, the results, and the respective policies that should be implemented are tantamount to performing economic surgery. In countries where the official rate of currency is devalued without expert research and study, there have been numerous problems and few successes.

Theoretically speaking, determining a correct rate for foreign exchange in line with the national currency is a means to help establish a system of prices and ensure better possibilities for allocating resources, placing investments on the right course, and raising economic efficiency.

When the rial is weakened, the high rate of foreign exchange will inevitably prevent the wasteful use of foreign exchange and economic institutions will have no alternative but to introduce better management to economize in foreign exchange. The great volume of imports of foreign goods will fall and, in turn, render the export of products extremely economical. The first outcome of a currency devaluation is an improvement in the deficit of payments and an increase in exports and decrease in imports. [passage omitted]

If, after the devaluation, inflation does not stabilize at an acceptable level, the price of the final product will increase and make exports uneconomical. Under these conditions, the government will have no alternative but to devalue the national currency again; these repeated weakenings will continue.

From the theoretical point of view, the rise in the price of imports will gradually lead to investment in the production of goods that will replace those imported and, as a result, the prices that increased because of the devaluation of the rial will be on a par with the offering of a domestic product that will replace the imported item. But if domestic production capability cannot rapidly produce goods to replace imports, the economy will face inflation with a rise in the price of imports; it will also cost more to produce various products. This will mean the payments imbalance will continue and the country's economy will have no alternative but to devalue the currency again. [passage omitted]

With the country's economic condition and in the wake of the introduction of the single parity rate of foreign exchange, the need for which cannot be doubted, paying attention to the subtleties of the issue can help to mitigate its negative impacts. Guiding financial and monetary policies in the right direction, striving to limit the growth of inflation, making the increase in wages logical, emphasizing the need to raise the level of agricultural and food production, and a change in the country's taxation system can all help to make up for the unfavorable consequences of the devaluation of the national currency.

* Privatization of Universities Dismissed

93AS0351V London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] Iran's government universities, especially Tehran University, which has acquired the name "The Mother

University," have come up against more or less heavy budget deficits. Recently Mohammad Rahimian, president of Tehran University, said that this university's budget deficit is approximately 1.5 billion tomans per year, but he added that the government has offered no way to make up for this budget deficit. He noted that Tehran University is in difficult circumstances with regard to credits and budget, so that at times it is unable to pay its service expenses.

It appears that the government had planned to turn the universities over to the private sector also, as it had done with the government factories, which were not losing money. The issue, however, was whether anyone from the private sector would want to invest in higher education, and what would be done with the students admitted under the "quota" system, accounting for 20 to 30 percent of the students in the government universities. Students of this kind, who have been imposed on the universities in various proportions from the so-called revolutionary organizations and foundations, have sharply lowered the quality of education in the universities, because there is a great difference between their level of learning and that of the students who get into the universities through competitive admissions tests. Consequently the professor does not know at what level and for which of these two groups of students to tailor the quality of his teaching.

Private investors were only willing to invest in the government universities first of all if the government were to specify the status of the quota students beforehand and secondl if the representatives of the chief jurisconsult and the students Islamic societies do not interfere with the administrative affairs of the universities.

In his opposition to privatizing the government universities, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Majles, referred implicitly to this same problem. He said: "With the privatization of the universities, some of the potential forces from the lower classes will be lost." The Majles speaker saw the solution to the financial crisis in the universities in "allocating a suitable budget to the Ministry of Sciences and Higher Education."

Mostafa Mo'in-Najafabadi, minister of culture and higher education, is opposed to privatizing the universities, while Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, minister of education and training, not only supports privatization, but also advocates combining the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, who once looked favorably on privatizing the universities, has made a quick retreat. He has said that government universities will not be privatized.

* Turkish Publications Aim at Central Republics

93AS0351S London KEYHAN in Persian 17 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] The Turkish Government published a new publication called ZAMAN at in Ankara at the same time that it was published in Baku and Turkmenistan. The publication ZAMAN is published in Istanbuli Turkish and Caucasian Turkish. This week this publication was published in Turkman and distributed in Turkmenistan.

This publication is published twice a month. Baku television announced in its news program several days ago that this publication is published twice a month in four pages and contains news about the Central Asian Republics.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Government the Turkish Government has begun extensive activities in the printing of publications and books for the Central Asian Republics.

* Demonstrations in Rasht for Infant Formula

93AS0351U London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 8

[Text] The newspaper ABRAR of Tehran writes that a group of Rasht residents demonstrated in that city to protest the lack of dried milk for infants and the sale of imported dried milk on the black market.

Maldives

Indian Minister Arrives To Discuss SAARC

BK1301110793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, arrived in the Maldivian capital, Male, as the prime minister's special envoy. He met the foreign minister yesterday and briefed him about the circumstances that led Mr. Narasimha Rao to call off his visit to Dhaka to attend the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. The minister also discussed bilateral relations with his counterpart.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal's Premier Meets Indian Minister on SAARC

BK1201133093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] India has ruled out the possibility of amending the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Charter to create a forum for discussion of bilateral and contentious issues. This was stated by the Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. R.L. Bhatia after meeting Nepal's Prime Minister Dr. Girija Prasad Koirala in Kathmandu today. Mr. Bhatia said that he has handed over a letter from the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, explaining the reasons for India's seeking postponement of the SAARC summit scheduled to begin in Dhaka tomorrow.

Bhutanese Refugees Demonstrate in Kathmandu

BK1301114093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 13 (AFP)—A group of Bhutanese refugees joined by different factions of the Human Rights Organization of Nepal and Bhutan held a demonstration here Wednesday [13 January], witnesses said.

About 325 demonstrators took their demonstration to the headquarters of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), where they delivered a protest letter to the group's Bhutanese director. Copies of the letter were also addressed to other members through SAARC Secretary General Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, but he refused to receive them, saying that the organization was not a platform for politics.

The SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The demonstrators were carrying placards, some of which read: "Stop genocide in Bhutan" and "There is no justice in Bhutan."

According to a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) source, some 82,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese origin had entered Nepal by the end of December and were settled inside refugee camps in Jhapa district, 390 kilometres (242 miles) southeast of Kathmandu.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan and Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala were scheduled to hold talks on the refugees in Dhaka at the seventh summit meeting of the SAARC, which was postponed indefinitely.

Nepal is currently looking for ways to hold talks with the Bhutanese king on the issue, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Pakistan

Bhutto Elected Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman

BK1201144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] In Islamabad today the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs unanimously elected Ms. Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, as its chairman. Her name was proposed by Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs. It was seconded by Mian Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif, MNA [member of the National Assembly].

Meanwhile, the Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting elected Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, MNA, as its chairman. His name was proposed by Mr. Elahi Bux Sumroo, minister for science and technology, and was seconded by Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, minister for industries. Syed Navid Qamar, MNA, was the other contestant. Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, MNA, was elected by a majority of seven to three.

Bhutto Hails Election

BK1301084893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan People's Party's cochairperson and leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, has described her unanimous election as chairperson of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs as a good tradition and a good beginning in the prevailing atmosphere of tension. Addressing a news conference in her chamber at the parliament yesterday, she said this is an unexpected, but a good and positive step toward a long journey. She said we respond positively to every positive step taken by the government. Answering a number of questions, Benazir Bhutto said we support steps to strengthen democracy and will ignore political differences on issues concerning national interest.

Indian Refusal To Open Visa Offices Decried

BK1201122893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said in Islamabad that India has not allowed opening of Pakistani visa offices in Bombay and Hyderabad. The purpose of setting up visa offices in these cities was to issue visas to divided Muslim families. He said the decision will create problems for Indian citizens, especially members of those divided families who cannot afford to go to Delhi to get a visa. The spokesman said that the Indian decision was announced only weeks after it expressed hollow sympathy for members of divided families when it said that visa seekers would face great difficulties in securing visas due to reduction of Indian personnel at the Karachi Consulate General.

Abdul Wahid Named New Chief of Army Staff

BK1201132693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The president has appointed Lieutenant General Abdul Wahid as chief of the army staff with immediate effect in the rank of full general. Immediately on his appointment, the new chief of the army staff called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at Aiwan-i-Sadr [president's house] in Islamabad and remained with him for some time. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was also present on the occasion. Others present were Federal Minister for Defense Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Shamim Alam, and [words indistinct].

Talks With President

BK1301115393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The chief of the army staff, General Abdul Wahid, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at Aiwan-i-Sadr [president's house] in Islamabad today immediately after taking charge of his new assignment. He discussed with the president professional matters relating to the Pakistan Army and the country's defense. Security environment in the region was also reviewed during the meeting and the need to maintain real deterrent capability was emphasized.

Minister To Sign Chemical Arms Convention

BK1201123093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan, along with more than 100 countries, will sign the convention for controlling proliferation of chemical weapons in Paris tomorrow. France has been carrying out a campaign for controlling chemical weapons at the international level to protect humanity from these lethal weapons. An organization to be based in Geneva is being set up by the member-countries for effective control of these weapons. A permanent secretariat is also being set up at The Hague in the Netherlands to monitor appropriate implementation of the convention. The executive council of the organization will take action against countries violating the convention. The UN Security Council will ensure implementation of the decisions. Javed Hashemi, minister of state for special education and social welfare, left for Paris yesterday to sign the convention. He said Pakistan opposes production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.

Talking to the media before his departure, the minister said that after this convention Pakistan will impress upon India to agree to the proposal for declaring South Asia a nuclear-free zone. He expressed the hope that India will sign the regional agreement for checking proliferation of nuclear weapons in the same spirit as it did in the case of the chemical weapons convention.

Kashmiris Hold Protest Day Against Sopor Killings

BK1201153493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Kashmiris today observed protest day to condemn the brutal killing of Muslims by Indian forces in Sopor and other parts of occupied Kashmir. A big protest rally was held at Muzaffarabad in which people from all walks of life, including women, participated.

Addressing the rally, the speakers, who included the Acting Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhary Mohammad Yusuf, urged the Muslim ummah [community] to take immediate measures to stop oppression by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. They also asked the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Kashmir. After the rally, the participants, raising anti-India slogans and demanding that the UN hold plebiscite in Kashmir, marched through various streets. The processionists demonstrated in front of the UN Observer Mission and presented a memorandum. The memorandum took exception to the UN passivity on Kashmir issue and demanded implementation of UN resolutions to resolve the issue.

Protest day was also observed in various towns of occupied Kashmir. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], at least two Indian troops were killed in a fierce clash with mojahedin in Srinagar. In an exchange of fire lasting over two hours, several Indian soldiers were injured, while a mojahed was martyred.

Minister Speaks on Relations With India, Russia

BK1301090793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has said Pakistan will continue its efforts to have tension-free and good-neighborly relations with India on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect. He told the National Assembly today while replying to a question by Haji Mohammad Javed Iqbal Cheema that Pakistan's efforts to resolve outstanding issues with India have not proved fruitful because of New Delhi's refusal to engage in substantive negotiations to solve the Kashmir problem and its reluctance to resolve differences over Siachen and other issues. The minister of state said the desecration and demolition of the historic Babri Masjid [mosque] at Ayodhya by Hindu extremists has deeply anguished the Muslims. He condemned the recent Sopor incident in occupied Kashmir in which a number of people were killed and their houses burned by the Indian forces. He said the government is agitating this matter at the international fora.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also told the house that Pakistani missions in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have started functioning. He said Pakistan's relations with the Russian Federation represent a clear break from the past and have been put on a footing of mutual understanding, good-neighborliness and mutually-beneficial cooperation. He said Pakistan has been reassured that the policy of the Russian Federation toward South Asia would be governed by a balanced approach in which the concerns of Pakistan would be given due consideration.

Indian 'Lack of Sincerity'; U.S. Terrorist Label Viewed

BK1001144393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—It has taken New Delhi an inexcusably long time to recognize what an unpleasant strategy India has evolved towards Kashmir issue. With a whiff

of fear in nostrils, the Indian leaderhip has recently wished Islamabad to sort out Kashmir issue under Simla accord.

There is hypocrisy in the clamour that India wants to have better ties with Pakistan. The key to her conjuring trick lies in the words with which its leadership spoke of Kashmir aspiring peace while at the same time promoting human massacre in the fabled valley.

Terming an Indian minister's comment as negative and evasive, Pakistan Foreign Office Secretary General Akram Zaki told this scribe that India didn't wish peace in Kashmir to flourish. Indian statement, he said, was followed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's sincere wish to resolve the issue. India, he said, had sent a formal reply to the Prime Minister of Pakistan's desire which he said could in no way be described as positive.

Indian intentions can be rightly doubted as the contents of Indian letter lack sincerity. The Secretary General said it will be totally unfair to say that "ball was in Pakistan's court," Zaki said.

Indian side wanted to damage Kashmir cause by making statements which were no more than eye-wash. Indian Minister says he wants better ties with Pakistan. The Minister must substantiate his offer as mere lip service isn't the answer to the issue. Tragically, Indian leadership has never backed the sincere efforts taken by the Prime Minister for friendly ties with New Delhi, he said.

Terror tactics don't seem to be winning world support for Indians, Zaki said. Indian leadership wanted to jeopardise the Kashmir cause by making such offer for having better ties.

Answering a question about United States' recent reported threat to Pakistan asking Islamabad to prove its (Islamabad) contention within 180 days that it is not promoting international terrorism, Akram Zaki said there isn't any such deadline or threat given by Washington. Neither Islamabad has been directed by US to prove its innocence nor Pakistan had been placed under any strict conditions to clarify its position.

He said Pakistan had replied [to] Washington justifying its position. He said US policymakers were satisfied with Pakistan's contention. To another question he said America has intimated [to] Pakistan that its alleged involvement in terrorism will have to be judged by US after a four to six months period. So there is nothing to worry about, he said.

Meanwhile Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan in a Press statement said US Ambassador to Pakistan John Monjo met him Thursday [7 January] and handed him a letter. Its contents say that Islamabad will have to prove within 180 days that it is not promoting international terrorism.

Defense Production Minister Meets Polish Minister

BK1201150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Poland's minister of trade, Mr. Waclaw Niewiarowski, called on the federal minister for defense production, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, in Islamabad today. He discussed with the minister matters of mutual interest. Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani briefed the Polish delegation on the government's policy of self-reliance and expressed Pakistan's desire to strengthen cooperation with Poland. The Polish delegation reciprocated these sentiments.

Minister Reiterates Opposition to Terrorism

BK1301114393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has said that Pakistan has consistently opposed terrorism in any form. He told the National Assembly today that the United States has conveyed its decision that it has not placed Pakistan on the terrorist list—a clear indication that Pakistan is not involved in supporting terrorist activities anywhere despite unfounded allegations. Mr. Kanjoo said there is no ground whatsoever to declare Pakistan as supporter of terrorism in any of its forms.

Documented Pakistanis Not To Be Deported From UAE

BK1201114893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has assured the National Assembly that Pakistanis with legal documents will not be deported from the UAE [United Arab Emirates]. He was responding to a call-attention notice moved by Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, Mr. Etejaz Ahsan, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Leghari, Syed Navid Qamar, and Chaudhary Altaf Hussain, who wanted to draw the attention of the government to the externment [as heard] of Pakistanis from the UAE. Explaining the matter, Mr. Kanjoo said that only those Pakistanis who had no legal documents were deported. Others who were sponsored but later left their original sponsors also violated the law of the UAE and were declared illegal and deported.

Speaking on a private bill sought to be introduced by Mr. Liaqat Baloch, Jamaat-i-Islami, the minister for parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, again assured the house that no ad hoc employee in the federal government would be removed from service until a legislation is approved by the parliament.

Intelligence Service Locates Clandestine Stations

BK1301104293 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Jan 93 p 9

[Text] Karachi, Jan. 12—Secret underground radio stations which were broadcasting poisonous propaganda against the friendly neighbours of Pakistan from the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan have been located by an intelligence agency. Five people have been arrested in this connection, who were reportedly trained by the Indian secret service "Raw".

Investigation is in progress by the intelligency agency and a number of arrests from Sindh and Balochistan are expected soon. The officials of the intelligence agency refusted to disclose details of the case for security reasons.

Delhi Reports Arrest of 80 Christians in Sindh

BK1301082493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Reports from Pakistan say that the wave of arrests of Christian youths in Sindh Province continues. The chief of the Christian Congress of Karachi, Mr. Nazir S. Bhatti, said that over 80 Christian youths have been taken into custody by the authorities. The arrests started after a Christian member of the Sindh Assembly, Mr. Salim Khakar, criticized the attacks on the minorities last month. Mr. Bhatti said the Christian youths are being tortured by the security forces.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Stage Rally, Demand Peace Talks

BK1201154893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1510 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Colombo, Jan 12 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas have staged a mass rally demanding peace talks to end Sri Lanka's ethnic bloodletting and freed two policemen to clear the way for negotiations, Tamil sources here said Tuesday [12 January].

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) led a march through the streets of their main northern stronghold at Jaffna town on Monday, demanding a government initiative to halt the dragging ethnic conflict, the sources said.

They said Sri Lanka's dominant rebel group was also demanding the lifting of an economic blockade on the Jaffna peninsula, which is virtually under LTTE control, and asked for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-ravaged region.

The peace march came a day after the LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran made a rare public appearance and held talks with an eight-member Christian delegation led by the Bishop of Colombo Kenneth Fernando.

The state-owned DAILY NEWS said Tuesday the Tiger chief offered to free two policemen from custody "as a gesture of goodwill to commence peace negotiations."

Military officials said it was the first time in more than 2-1/2 years that Prabhakaran had come out into the open and held direct talks with someone from outside the Jaffna Peninsula.

"As a request made by the bishops to release the two constables in custody, it was agreed to by Prabhakaran as a gesture of goodwill in order to commence peace negotiations," the DAILY NEWS quoted informed sources as saying.

The LTTE chief explained to the bishops "the sufferings of the Tamil people due to the atrocities of the Sri Lankan Government," the DAILY NEWS said using unusally respectful language in referring to the LTTE.

The Church delegation crossed a prohibited waterway to reach the Jaffna peninsula, despite warnings by chief military spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angammana that the bishop faced the risk of being shot.

Military officials said the bishop had earlier given an assurance to the security forces that he would not travel to Jaffna but would stop at the northernmost point of the mainland.

Scores of Tamil boat passengers have been shot dead by the navy in recent weeks while trying to cross the lagoon, the only remaining means for civilians to reach the peninsula but which the military have banned them from using in an effort to limit LTTE movement.

A junior minister told parliament the visit of the church delegation to Jaffna and the release of the policemen was a major development in restoring peace on the island.

"Their (church) meeting with Prabhakaran is a major breakthrough in the search for peace," junior Foreign Minister John Amaratunga said.

Government spokesmen have maintained that there have been no contacts either directly or indirectly between the LTTE and Colombo to resume peace talks.

Tigers have captured hundreds of policemen since fighting broke out in June 1990, after peace talks failed, and officials estimate that some 600 were killed while in captivity with 40 to 50 still alive.

The LTTE is battling to establish an independent homeland in the island's northeast where minority Tamils are concentrated. Thousands have died in bitter fighting.

Indian Minister Discusses SAARC With President

BK1201121193 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa says that with the least interruption, important proposals affecting the people of South Asia should be implemented. He made this statement when Minister of State for External Affairs of India Eduardo Faleiro called on him at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday. Mr. Faleiro arrived in Colombo yesterday as a special representative of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. The seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit was due to be held in Dhaka tomorrow and the day after. The state minister briefed the president on the circumstances which prevented the Indian prime minister from attending the summit. It was agreed that considering the current achievements of SAARC and the progress of important programs such as poverty alleviation and trade liberalization, the present momentum of SAARC should be maintained. The present level of cooperation and momentum has been achieved as a result of the efforts and goodwill of SAARC countries. These programs should be continued with the least interruption. President Premadasa said that the dates for the seventh SAARC summit should, therefore, be agreed soon.

Special envoy Faleiro also announced that Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma was expected to visit Sri Lanka in June. He said this was in response to an invitation extended by the Sri Lanka president to his Indian counterpart during his visit to New Delhi in October.